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### ***Senior phase pupils in secondary schools***

Dear Student

I know that this year continues to be very challenging for you.

You will be aware that your school is not going to open as normal in January. For the week beginning Monday 11 January, most of the learning will be delivered on-line with your teachers leading learning remotely. I understand that many of you already have some of your learning delivered in this way.

I know that some of you had prelim exams organised for the week you went back and that some of you are worried about missing these and wondering whether this will impact on your final grades. I want to reassure you that your teachers have already been working very hard planning your assessments across the academic year to ensure that they gather the best evidence possible to support your final SQA award.

The advice issued from SQA is quite clear - you don't need to have prelim exams - teachers can gather assessment information from tests sat in class as well as prelims which could be held at a later date.

We are hoping that we will be able to return to school from Monday 18 January. However, it may not be possible or indeed, preferable to have you all back in school full-time because of any continuing cases of infection in your schools due to the new strain of the virus. If this is the case, then we will continue to deliver learning in different ways with a mixture of on-line and in-class learning and teaching and we will keep you informed of these changes

To help with this we have developed the West On-line School - you will find this on Glow - you can add the tile to your Launch Pad. You will find lots of lessons in there across a range of subject areas. These have all been developed by our teachers. Scholar is also a helpful on-line tool for some subjects. Your teachers will be able to provide you with login details for that if you don't have it already.

I hope you find it reassuring to know that we are all working exceptionally hard to make sure that you have every opportunity to achieve your potential in this 'year like no other'. I am confident that by working positively with your teachers and your schools you will be successful in achieving the qualifications you deserve.

Here's to a more positive 2021!

Yours sincerely

**MAUREEN McKENNA**  
Executive Director of Education