

**Dear students,**

Soon you will sit your state exams either for Junior Cert or Leaving Cert. We know how hard you have worked, but there is something very important you must know:

These exams will not and cannot assess all of what makes each of you special and unique. The people who create these exams and score them do not know each of you the way that we do and certainly not the way your families do.

They do not know that some of you speak three languages or that you love to sing or draw. They have not seen your natural talent for dancing or playing a musical instrument. They do not know that your friends can count on you to be there for them; that your laughter can brighten the darkest day or that your face turns red when you feel shy. They do not know that you participate in sports, wonder about the future, or sometimes help your little brother or sister after school. They do not know that you are kind, trustworthy and thoughtful, and every day you try to be your very best.

The results you will get from these exams will tell you something, but they will not tell you everything. There are many ways of being smart. You are smart! So while you are preparing for the exams and in the midst of it all, remember that there is no way to 'test' all of the amazing and awesome things that make you, YOU!

**"Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all."**

**Aristotle**

**Sleep, Rest, Believe!**

**Good luck!**