Recognition of LSMD's Music Grade Exams.

- It has long since been established that the LSMD community offer an excellent standard of exams, tuition and service for all of its students. We endeavour to set high standards with international benchmarking of the LSMD syllabi and offering the best quality service to our students, teachers and all who are involved in the LSMD community throughout Ireland and beyond. The syllabi are recognised by students and teachers alike, as offering a structured and flexible approach to students so that they and their parents can see real development both musically, technically with real growth/confidence in their abilities and performance, whether it is on the exam floor or concert stages around the world.

- This setting and achieving high standards was also recently evident in the recognition of the LSMD's Associate & Licentiate diplomas and the new Higher Diploma in Arts in Music Education and Higher Diploma in Arts in Drama Education programmes all being validated by QQI in recent years and at level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications of Ireland.

- To date there had not been a structure available to LSMD to have the music grades recognised on the National Framework of Qualifications in Ireland. QQI (the amalgamated HETAC and FETAC) established a process to recognise graded music exams for the first time in Ireland.

    - LSMD sent a submission document/report including, external referencing points, quality assurance, assessments and moderation for consideration.

    - Community of Practice & Associations e.g. the LSMD's links with Windmill Lane, Feiseanna, Association of Irish Choirs etc.

    - Exam processes, international benchmarking all included in the submission document.

- LSMD sent a team to meet with a panel in QQI to discuss all of the above.

- **The QQI panel was very impressed with the LSMD's procedures, policies, standards etc. they have recommended that the LSMD's classical music grades 1-8 be recognised through the National Framework of Qualifications and set out the levels as follows;**

LSMD music exam grades one, two and three	**NQI level 3**
LSMD music exam grades four and five	**NQI level 4**
LSMD music exam grades six, seven and eight	**NQI level 5**

Classical singing, piano, violin, guitar, cello, theory, clarinet, flute, descant and treble recorder are all included. I am sure you will agree that this is excellent news for the whole LSMD community and all of the hard work that we all put in to upholding these standards has been vindicated yet again!