



Parents' Update

Friday 8th January

Dear Parents(s)/Guardian(s),

Following the announcement by the Department of Education & Skills on Thursday 7th January all schools will remain closed for the next three weeks and sixth year students will not be required to attend classes.

From Monday 11th January will move to our MS Teams platform:

- Students will be able to access their work and classes using the MS Team Platform.
- Subject teachers will send work and invitations to online classes through MS Teams. Online classes will follow students' normal timetable.
- Based on our experience and review of the last lockdown (March 2020) it is very important to note that a *blended approach* to online learning is considered best practice and that students will not be scheduled for six hours of on-line teaching each day. On average a student who has 3 periods a week with a particular subject will have two online classes. However, this may vary depending on the subject and the year group.
- It is very important that students pace themselves and that over the next three weeks they work within the structure of their normal school timetable.
- It is also important that students who are requested to submit homework/assignments on the MS Teams Platform do so on time. Our experience from the last lockdown was that students were not pacing themselves and, on some occasions, became overwhelmed by the process.
- It is also important to work within the boundaries of the school day when communicating with your teachers.
- It is vitally important that we all continue to take good care of our mental health and wellbeing and the best way to do this is to pace ourselves.

Online Etiquette

When engaging in the online with your teachers, it is important to remember that this is a formal situation. With this in mind, we wish to remind you that the College's Behaviour Code, Counter-bullying Policy, and the Personal Electronic Device Policy as outlined in your School Journal must be followed at all times.

School Rules

- ✓ School Rules apply to the online classroom
- ✓ Think before you type. Keep focused on the task at hand

Workspace

- ✓ Chose a workspace that is suitable for the online classroom
- ✓ Be aware of what others will see in the background

No Photos

- ✓ Do not take screenshots, photographs or video recording of others online

Mute

- ✓ Mute your mic when you are not talking or typing. Only turn it on if you are asked to speak

Respect

- ✓ Respect everyone's views online

Punctuality

- ✓ Be on time for your online classes
- ✓ Turn up – the class is to help you and your learning

Presentation

- ✓ Dress Appropriately
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Social Media & Fake News.

I cannot stress enough the importance of sticking to the facts at this time and I know that many of our students rely on their social media platforms for their information. Already there is speculation that schools might remain closed beyond the 31st January and there is also, regrettably, a lot of talk about the future of this year's state examinations.

What we do know is this: School will be closed for the next three weeks and that the Department of Education & Skills will provide us with further updates in due course. Let us continue to do the simple things well and commit ourselves to the next three weeks.

In due course I will provide further updates on the mock examinations, the practical exams for the state examinations and the Orals as well as Class Bases Assessments for second & third years.

Second Year MS Teams Meeting - Tuesday 12th January (Deferred)

- We had scheduled a MS Teams meeting for parents of Second Years for Tuesday 12th January at 7.00p.m. We have decided to defer this meeting to a later date in this term.

I will provide further updates on online learning & teaching tomorrow Friday 8th January.

Yours faithfully,

John Cronin
Principal

