

March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear Parent(s) & Guardian(s),

I hope this message finds you and your families safe and well in these most challenging of times. There are a number of important notices we wish to share with you but perhaps the most important message is to salute the incredible work of all parents and past pupils who are working in the health services ensuring that we are protected in the battle against Covid 19. Your work is truly appreciated.

### Contacting the College

Parents may need to contact the College in the coming days and weeks. Parents should email the College at [admin@castleknockcc.ie](mailto:admin@castleknockcc.ie) and the office staff will ensure that the information is passed on to the relevant staff member. In the event of an emergency please use the following number between 10.00a.m. & 1.00p.m. Monday to Friday: 085-2132221. **However, we would encourage you in the first instance to email your query.**

### Getting the Right Information

At this stage no decision has been made in relation to State Examinations. Rest assured, when the State Examinations Commission & the Department of Education release any updates, we will notify you.

### School work & 365 account

All students have been issued with their log on details for their 365 account. If there is a problem with logging on to the College email system then please email the College [admin@castleknockcc.ie](mailto:admin@castleknockcc.ie). All teachers have been advised to email students work on a regular basis and to return the work as soon as possible.

*The Irish Times posted the following useful information today:*

**Dublin Academy:** The Dublin-based grind school is posting free-to-access classes on YouTube over the coming days.

**iRevise:** This Irish revision website is providing students with free study resources for a month due to the school closures.

**Studyclix:** One of the most popular of Ireland's study websites, it offers notes, videos and a forum for students preparing for the Junior and Leaving Cert. The basic site is free, while the rest is paid-for.

**Protutor:** It is running a series of free webinars on Leaving Cert accounting topics aimed at fifth and sixth years next week.

Studynotes.ie: Students and teachers can use the free platform to share their notes and resources.

### Guidance & Counselling Department

Our Guidance Counsellors, Ms Crowley & Ms Moran can be contacted directly by email. The Counselling service at the College is here to support and assist you in any way we can during this time.

[eileencrowley@castleknockcc.ie](mailto:eileencrowley@castleknockcc.ie)

[marymoran@castleknockcc.ie](mailto:marymoran@castleknockcc.ie)

### Important Message from PA

The PA has linked google groups to their email account, making PA emails more secure. Invitations to join a PA group have been re-emailed to all unregistered parents today (check your spam folder if not received). Please accept the invitation to join google groups for updates on all PA news and events.

**Invites will expire at the weekend.**

This work will ensure that the Parents Association will be able to remain in contact with all parents in relation to school updates, Autumn & Spring Talks and of course the Plant Sale!

### Senior Cycle Options

We were unable to host the senior cycle options talks for students due to the school closure. While it is our intention to host these talks at a later date can I encourage all Third Year and TY students transferring to Fifth Year 2020-21 to research their subject choices on *Curriculum online* <https://www.curriculumonline.ie/Home/> Other websites/platforms worth viewing are *Careers Portal* <https://careersportal.ie/> and *Qualifax* <https://www.qualifax.ie/>

### Computer Science (Fifth Year Option)

It was also unfortunate that we were unable to host the Computer Science talk which was scheduled for Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March. This talk was for parents of TY & Third Year students interested in finding out more about Computer Science at

senior cycle. The videos from the phase 1 schools who introduced Computer Science as a pilot school are worth viewing. <https://ncca.ie/en/senior-cycle/curriculum-developments/computer-science>.

### A Message from our College Chaplain

The College Chaplain Chantelle Barrett has uploaded a meditation video onto our website for students and parents to avail of at this time. She also wished to share the message that Pope Francis shared recently with the people of Italy.

Tonight before falling asleep think about when we will return to the street. When we hug again, when all the shopping together will seem like a party.

Let's think about when the coffees will return to the bar, the small talk, the photos close to each other.

We think about when it will be all a memory but normalcy will seem an unexpected and beautiful gift.

We will love everything that has so far seemed futile to us. Every second will be precious.

Swims at the sea, the sun until late, sunsets, toasts, laughter. We will go back to laughing together.

Strength and courage.

*John Cronin*

Principal