



17/04/2020

Dear Parents and Guardians

I hope you are all keeping well and have enjoyed the Easter Break. As you are all aware the school closures will continue until we are advised otherwise. I have no information at this point as to when schools may reopen, although I expect to be updated on Tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup> April. I will, of course, immediately communicate any updated information to you.

In terms of day to day operations, we will continue with the arrangements that were in place before the Easter holidays, from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April until Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April. I will review all arrangements over the coming days to determine what changes, if any, need to be made.

In terms of the State Exams, we are in the enviable position where we do not have Leaving Cert Students facing exams this summer. Our main focus in this respect is our Third Year students. There are no fixed arrangements for them yet, despite all the speculation in the media and other forums.

As far as we have been informed the formal exams in June are definitely off but there will be some replacement in the early part of the 2020/2021 school year. Details of these arrangements have yet to be supplied to the school, but we did anticipate something of this nature and our planning is already advanced in this matter. Again, once we have details we will communicate them to you with haste.

In the interim, it is very important that our Third Year students keep working hard during the next six weeks. I appreciate that motivation levels are going to dip after the recent postponement, but these exams will happen in some form, at some stage in the near future. Keep up the hard work is the best message at the moment.

It is very important for us all to maintain some sense of optimism that we will have a return to a degree of normality in the coming weeks. We probably won't see much change in the next two weeks, but perhaps after the May Bank Holiday weekend we might see some relaxation of restrictions. I hope we will see some gradual return of students before the end of the school year.

Lets keep our fingers crossed that the "Plateau Effect" we have heard about will come to pass and that with social distancing and other measures , we will be able to see some kind of return to routine. I'm sure that our students want to return to school, much as they would never admit it!

As we start the summer term, I would like to take this opportunity to commend all our students on the manner in which they have worked with their teachers from the 13<sup>th</sup> March until now. We have seen a great deal of engagement in their classes and in the Social and Discovery tasks. I think our current arrangements have given a structure to the days out of school and with your cooperation that will continue successfully.

I would like to thank you all for your patience and understanding as we deal with this unprecedented challenge.

Keep safe and well,

*Ciarán Keegan*