



2 April 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians

Thank you for continuing to balance all that you are doing during this time. We completely understand the many issues that you are facing at home and thank you for all the feedback that we have been receiving in recent weeks.

Last week we posted a letter to our students on our school website. We set out five considerations for the unique times we are living in. We addressed distance learning, social distancing, use of boredom, time with family and the opportunity to grow. We miss our students greatly and we look forward to welcoming them back through our school gates as soon as possible.

As the Easter holidays approach we reflect on the challenges we have faced together these recent weeks and we offer some guidance and supports for the Easter break:

- Remote learning: In these unprecedented times your daughters and their teachers have had to work hard to adjust to working remotely. Sometimes this can be overwhelming for students and teachers alike. We have prepared guidelines for online communication in response to the feedback we have received. We have shared with teachers and they in turn will share them with their students through class teams.
- 6th and 3rd year students: For exam students we are sending you some resources attached below. These are suggested websites to help your daughter with study over Easter holidays. Our subject departments are also working on supplementary study material that students can use to help structure their study until teachers are back online on Monday 20th April. Any updates from the SEC will be posted on our website once they are announced.
- Wellbeing Teams: This week, thanks to Ms.Parker and Ms.Flood, we have launched a Wellbeing Team for 1st year students and one for 2nd year students. These teams can be accessed by all 1st and 2nd year students to introduce a little positivity into the student's lives and to provide them with practical tips and inspiration for coping and staying active and creative during this time.
- Easter Competition: All 1st, 2nd, TY and 5th year students are invited to take part in a variety of competitions organised by subject departments such as P.E., Home Economics, Music, Art and others. Details of these competitions and the prizes on offer are available from teachers through class teams online. The competitions run over the Easter holidays and close on Tuesday 22nd April.
- 1st, 2nd, TY and 5th year students: The Easter holidays presents a break from homework and contact with teachers. This is an opportunity to get plenty of exercise, take up a good book, get involved in the Easter competitions mentioned above and to try out some of the ideas on the Wellbeing team (1st and 2nd years), and perhaps get back to study of summer exams in the 2nd week.

Online access to text books is available free of charge <https://educateplus.ie/homestudy-secondary>

Supplementary study websites are attached.

We ask your prayers for those who have been directly affected by the COVID-19 virus, and our thoughts are with the healthcare workers who care for them. We also ask your prayers for those in our school community who have experienced loss of loved ones recently. May they rest in peace.

We will continue to keep you updated with new information as it comes our way.

We take this opportunity to wish you and your family a happy and safe Easter.

Mr. Peter McNamara and *Ms. Sharon Gunn*

Principal

Deputy Principal