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COLAISTE MUIRE,

COBH,

CO. CORK.

P24 EW42

21.04.2020

Dear Parents and Guardians of Colaiste Muire,

I hope you and your children are doing OK. The good weather has helped. I feel we have been through the worst. The end is not in sight but as a thoughtful colleague keeps reminding me, we are one day closer to normality every morning we arise.

During the Easter holidays you will have learnt that the situation has changed regarding with regard to 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year. As I write this, there is a confirmed report from RTE that Junior Cycle SEC certification has been abandoned for 2020. If the report is accurate, JC final assessment will now school based. I welcome this. Once we receive guidance, I will be in contact with you.

Leaving Certificate students will be sitting examinations in late July going into August. If the rate of infection falls off before then, there will be a short amount of time in July given to classroom work and assessments.

I can see students spread out across the school doing examinations in small numbers per room. I strongly advocate LC students to keep a focus on July/August. Its difficult –

Schools have received little further information other than the reminder that “no negotiations or consultation processes have, as yet, supported the emergence of an implementation plan...While this work proceeds, school management should accept only those updates and announcements that emerge from authoritative sources including the Department of Education, the State Examinations Commission and the powers that be are working out the practicalities as we speak”.

Any speculation on what may happen is just that – speculation. We wait for official confirmation.

The main points I wish to share with you are:

- **We are back in action for the next six weeks, staying as positive as we can, and encouraging your son or daughter to engage as much as possible with online learning.**
- We are proceeding as we were before the holidays
- Almost all TY students have entered their option choices into VSware. A number of parents had issues and required support. VSware advise that an apostrophe in the username causes login issues.
- Online application forms for TY will be going out shortly. 3<sup>rd</sup> years who wish to go straight into 5<sup>th</sup> year will be contacted next week on their subject choice.

- **Non-examination years will receive an end of year grade based on continual assessment from here on in. it is very important that your son or daughter engage with their teachers as best they can.**
- Teachers are again preparing study plans for publication on the app and are letting students know what is expected of them for end of year assessment.
- We will send out a survey link to all students to gain feedback on their experience during this time.
- Parents are encouraged to let the school know by email if they are experiencing IT access issues. We will pass this on to teachers. This will be important information for assessment purposes.
- Year Heads will be checking with their groups, where they can, in a pastoral role. They can be contacted at the following addresses.

<a href="mailto:jcahill@colaistemuire.com">jcahill@colaistemuire.com</a>	1 <sup>st</sup> Year
<a href="mailto:nstafford@colaistemuire.com">nstafford@colaistemuire.com</a>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year
<a href="mailto:tmurphy@colaistemuire.com">tmurphy@colaistemuire.com</a>	3 <sup>RD</sup> Year
<a href="mailto:mmurtagh@colaistemuire.com">mmurtagh@colaistemuire.com</a>	TY
<a href="mailto:sormond@colaistemuire.com">sormond@colaistemuire.com</a>	5 <sup>th</sup> Year
<a href="mailto:kwalsh@colaistemuire.com">kwalsh@colaistemuire.com</a>	6 <sup>th</sup> year

I acknowledge my colleagues for doing their best keeping the 'show on the road'.

Thank you Parents and Guardians for your support.

Yours Sincerely,

Fergus O'Brien