



To all members of CBS Kilkenny school community – Apr 3 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian/Student/Staff Member/Friend of CBS Kilkenny

As a nation, we are living in unprecedented times for which we have not been fully-prepared. I know that the last few weeks have brought challenge, worry and uncertainty to our door, in many guises and at differing levels of complexity for each of us and our families.

In Ireland, we are now several weeks into this global crisis and a week into very significant measures which have restricted our freedom and lives in ways unmatched by anything we have previously experienced. I know that many families of CBS Kilkenny community have been able to cope and adapt relatively quickly, but unfortunately there has been unforeseen health, financial and personal hardship for others.

As a school community, the welfare of our students is always to the fore. Our mission to educate and support the development of our students can only thrive when their welfare is supported and minded. These days, not being able to connect in person has removed a significant aspect of the relationships which we nurture in the school and for which CBS Kilkenny is highly regarded. I want to salute the teaching staff of the school who have worked extremely hard to forge new online relationships with their students. New technology and new methods of engagement have been embraced by the teaching staff, and I know that they have provided students with a very meaningful and effective online classroom environment. In turn, parents/guardians and students have risen to the challenge of new practices and methodologies, and I commend you highly for that.

The next month brings uncertainty regarding state examinations and related issues. At the moment, current advice from the State Examinations Commission and the Department of Education and Skills is that the fervent aim is to hold the state examinations on the published dates. Our wisest approach is to take this advice and to be prepared for the challenge ahead. We can achieve this by continuing to work in a spirit of partnership and mutual support.

It is our intention that non-exam classes will be provided with an end of year report also. As the next few weeks unfold, the format of this report will be clearly communicated. In the meantime it is important that your son focuses in a meaningful way on his study and keeps to a routine until the official summer holidays arrive.

The current school closure has caused the cancellation of several key events in our school year, and we will miss these markers, but we hope to celebrate these together in the not too distant future.

The school Easter holidays start today, and I wish each of you a safe, healthy, happy and carefree time over the next two weeks.

Le gach dea ghuí

Tom Clarke

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Meán scoil na mBráithre Críostaí, Sráid Shéamais, Cill Chainnigh