



THE  
KING'S  
HOSPITAL  
SCHOOL

## End of Term Message from the Headmaster

3-4-2020

Dear Parent and Guardian

Firstly, I would like to sincerely thank all the courageous members of our school community, working on the frontlines in healthcare and other essential services. We really appreciate all that you are doing during this time.

As we reach the end of Week 3 as eKH, I hope that this email finds you safe and well. This week saw the introduction of further movement restrictions from the Government, that are in place until Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, but will likely extend beyond that. With even more families forced to work and study from home, this has posed additional challenges for you all, by placing a strain on digital resources and workspace. As we all find ourselves in the same metaphorical boat now, our thoughts are with you, wherever in your home you are reading this email.

It is important that as this is the final day of term that we all take a break from emails, google classroom and Zoom; and spend time to rest and reflect with family, and in a virtual sense with relatives and friends. This is unlikely to be the Easter break you were planning or looking forward to but if this pandemic has taught us anything, it's to be more creative in how we live our lives. I do hope you get to enjoy some downtime, and good weather, in which to take a 2km walk around your home.

As we must wait with the rest of the country for announcements of school reopening or State Exams status, our School Leadership Team continue to plan contingencies, for all eventualities. We remain committed to provide learning and pastoral support for our students as circumstances allow and evolve.

We appreciate that this current crisis will have an impact on family finances; arising from unemployment, the risk of job loss or damage to businesses. We are continuing to monitor the situation closely and are awaiting an update from the Government in respect of the reopening of schools after Easter. We will then consider the implications of that decision, arising from this mandated school closure; after which we will write to you again.

Our Covid-10 Online Support and Resource center, is regularly updated, and very much a community page. Please email any content suggestions with useful links to [marketing@thekingshospital.ie](mailto:marketing@thekingshospital.ie). You may have a small business that is still operating an online service, and we can include a contact link for you.

Please find some Easter messages from our school leaders below.

**[Teaching & Learning](#) - Head of Academics - Email: [Siobhán Daly](mailto:Siobhan.Daly@thekingshospital.ie)**

While non-exam year students get to take a break from their studies over Easter, Forms 3 & 6 need to continue with their revision for the Junior and Leaving Cert. As the Taoiseach stated yesterday; the Government are doing everything in their power to ensure the exams will take place. Teachers in individual subjects have provided revision guides for their students, as they would normally before Easter, and Housepeople have also communicated [study tips](#). Understandably, it will be more difficult to motivate students during this time. Please reiterate that learning is continuous and together we need to ensure students understand and embed the knowledge and concepts they have been taught, in order to prepare them for the next step in their education journey, whether that is the Senior Cycle or 3<sup>rd</sup> Level.

**Boarding and Day Pastoral Care – Head of Boarding/Deputy Principal - Email: [Cormac Ua Bruadair](mailto:Cormac.UaBruadair@thekingshospital.ie)**

Details of how to apply for refunds for cancelled school trips have been sent to all affected parents. Please contact me with any queries. Can I also ask you to encourage your children to stay in touch



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with their classmates and housemates over the break, especially through video or old-school voice chats, to keep that connection going.

#### [Well-being](#) – **Head of Well-being Email:** [John Aiken](#)

Please continue to utilise the Well-being section on the website where you will find further resources, including a new Powerpoint of some tips to aid your wellbeing.

Rev. Campion has been posting one minute 'Thoughts from Chapel' Monday - Friday and will have some Easter messages for you next week. Posted nightly on our social channels, all episodes to date are available in the Well-being link.

Our school counsellor, Clair Breen, will remain available to students over the Easter holidays, please contact her through email: [counsellor@thekingshospital.ie](mailto:counsellor@thekingshospital.ie) Additional supports will be available from the rest of the members of the Wellbeing Team ought the need arise.

#### [Performing Arts](#) – **Head of Arts & Culture Email:** [Kerrie O'Reilly](#)

Easter might be a nice time to try something fun and creative. For the Drama students we have asked them to create their own 'set' at home, 'costume' and then film their monologues and send them in. Music teachers have provided backing tracks so that students can record their performances and email them in to us. These are great ways to practice their pieces whilst being creative and having some fun.

Why not try the challenge the Art Department has set? Recreate a famous painting in your home using family and whatever props you have to hand and email the images back in to us, ideas can be seen here at <https://mymodernmet.com/recreate-art-history-challenge/>

There are so many links out there now to enjoy pre-recorded operas, concerts, plays, movies etc., check out the <https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk> where they are showing free shows online, or RTE's schedule of the most-loved Shakespearean plays throughout Easter.

#### [Sports](#) – **Director of Sport Email:** [Derek Maybury](#)

With no class sessions to help structure their day, it is more important than ever that students maintain a routine and include 60+ minutes of moderate to vigorous exercise daily. We have posted four exercise videos in the link above, from our Fitness Coach, Ciaran Donohoe, with another two on the way. We'd love to hear / see how students are getting on with these! It could also be useful for students to link up online and exercise together with their friends or teammates. A highlights video of this year's SCT will also be posted shortly.

If school does reopen April 20<sup>th</sup>, we will be in contact with students to ask them to sign-up for their choice of ECAs online via SOCS, for the summer term.

To close, I would like to say how grateful I am to students and staff for their hard work and engagement during these exceptional circumstances, and for the support and encouragement that you provide at home. I hope that you and your family continue to stay safe and well.

Yours

Mark Ronan  
Headmaster / Principal