



THE
KING'S
HOSPITAL
SCHOOL

19-3-20

Dear Student, Parent and Guardian

I hope that this finds you safe and well in these challenging and unprecedented times.

It is only a week since the formal closure of the school yet the scale of the COVID 19 epidemic and its implications have escalated significantly.

Last Thursday, we closed for a 2-week period; however, following statements by Leo Varadkar on St Patrick's Day and the Minister for Education this morning, we cannot assume that schools will reopen after 29th March. Practical exams and orals for State Exams have been cancelled whilst the deadline for the completion of project work has been extended until 15th May.

Challenging though it is for students to adapt to eLearning, we are committed to educating all of our students through to the end of the academic year, if necessary. With this in mind, we are progressing our eLearning capabilities in order to keep students motivated, in a familiar routine, and virtually connected to their teachers for support and engagement. We are considering a number of ways to achieve this and staff are trialling video conferencing options.

Teachers are currently supporting you through blended learning (Google Classroom and work assigned before closure); and this will be augmented over the coming days with some online taught engagement. Your current school timetable provides you with an excellent structure to organise your day, and submit assigned work. Let your parents see the work that is being set so they can discuss topics and provide additional interaction, in addition to peer-learning with your friends.

Our Junior and Leaving Certificate students heard today that they will not be required to take the Oral and Practical components of their exams but will instead be awarded 100% marks for that portion. However, we are planning that the written exams will go ahead, and wish to reassure those students of the support and guidance from our teaching community. A separate communication will go tomorrow to parents and students in exam years outlining all the implications of the DES briefing from today

We are aware that some students may have limited digital access, so please contact [Siobhan Daly](#) and we will provide alternative resources to those that need it.

Please do continue to follow all HSE guidelines on Social Distancing while maintaining a healthy study/life balance. Staff are preparing wellbeing videos on exercise, mindfulness, and Rev. Campion's thoughts from Chapel, which we will post on the website and social media.

I wish all the best for you and your family.

Yours

Mark Ronan
Headmaster / Principal