March 26th

**School Closure Update**

These are challenging times for us all and I urge you all to follow the HSE advice carefully in relation to social distancing and regular careful washing of your hands. Below, I am including a message from President Higgins for us all, the latest information from the State Examinations Commission and access to some resources from the NCSE. It is important that all examination students prepare for the upcoming examinations by following the programme being presented by your teachers on a daily basis. Draft versions of all project work should be completed and forwarded to your teachers for analysis as soon as possible to ensure you are ready to complete the final version as soon as possible when we return to school. All other students should follow your daily timetable as closely as possible completing assignments being set by your teachers through Office 365. If you have any concerns in relation to access to information or your sons progress, please do not hesitate to contact me via email [principal@knockbegcollege.ie](mailto:principal@knockbegcollege.ie)

Above all else, be careful and stay safe.

Michael Carew (Principal)

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**President Higgins – Message for our young people**

Management bodies representing all of the second-level schools in the State are communicating with their schools asking them to forward the message delivered by President Higgins on the importance of social distancing to the parents of students in their schools.

<https://president.ie/en/media-library/news-releases/statement-from-president-of-ireland-following-his-signature-of-the-health-preservation-and-protection-and-other-emergency-measures-in-the-public-interest-bill-2020>

President Higgins is urging young people to respond in a generous way to the Health Service Executive’s advice on measures to alleviate the spread of Covid19. The management bodies are working together to ensure that appropriate messaging is delivered to all second-level students. This further reinforces the pronouncements of An Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, other government ministers and health officials on the responsibility of all to adhere to social distance guidelines and to respond to HSE advice at this time of national emergency.

Students are reminded that they can play their part in the national effort to curb the spread and the worse effects of the Covid-19 virus. Schools are closed to students at present to prevent the spread of this highly contagious and potentially lethal virus. By avoiding assembling and socialising in groups, students will be playing their part in supporting the national health campaign.

We would also like to acknowledge the work and innovative methodologies that have been undertaken in schools by management and teachers promoting continuity of contact with their students through distance learning and other means. We would further like to thank students and parents for their engagement with this process in the face of the challenges that it can entail, and would encourage all in our school communities to do everything you can to maintain the learning and social and pastoral connection between the student and the school.

**State Examinations Commission**

Further to the statement from the State Examinations Commission on the State exams last week, they have published an FAQ on the impact of this decision for candidates on their website.

https://www.examinations.ie/misc-doc/BI-SE-67826275.pdf

**NCSE Resources**

The NCSE are publishing resources on an ongoing basis for parents and teachers at <https://ncse.ie/online-resources>

Other resources that you might find useful for your pupils are:

* Translated resources to help share the messaging about coronavirus (COVID-19) in various languages.

These posters and booklets are available for download and printing.

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/news/newsfeatures/covid19-updates/partner-resources/covid-19-translated-resources/>