**Distance Learning Survey**

Thanks to all our parents who took the time to complete our recent survey in relation to the educational provision from our school during the current crisis. I was delighted to see so many responding with hugely positive comments in relation to the commitment of our teachers to provide educational supports to our students and advice on the many ways in which we can improve our service to you. All teachers have been provided with a report on the survey and taking on board the comments, we are all working together in a number of areas to improve the provision for our students. Please bear in mind that a lot of this is a new venture for us as teachers with a lot of new Learning and Teaching methodologies involved for us all which takes time and practice to perfect. Working together as a school community, we will survive this exceptionally difficult period for us all, improve as people and return as better and stronger people when this challenging time in our lives passes.

1. **Barriers to accessing distance learning work**

33% of parents said there were barriers is accessing distance learning work.

66% of parents said there were no barriers is accessing distance learning work.

Main themes:

* Difficulty with wi-fi, use of family laptop
* Difficulty with doing material without teacher
* Hard to use office365 and the various applications
* Parents working – student at home on own
* Self-motivation
* Parents no access to office365
* Looking for more communication from teachers via email

1. **Happy with distance work provided**

53% of parents stated they were happy with the distance learning work provided by teachers.

42% of parents said they were somewhat happy with the distance learning work provided by teachers.

5% stated they were not happy with work currently provided by teachers.

Main themes:

* Online classes – looking for online classes.
* Some teachers and subjects not posting any work
* Lack of interaction and communication by some teachers
* Some teachers not posting work regularly
* Some teachers not looking for deadlines – leading to difficulties to self-motivate students
* Work not being corrected, and feedback not given by some teachers
* Parents looking for access to work
* TY’s getting very little work
* Too much work coming through
* Work coming in from different platforms – difficult to navigate

1. **Suggestions in the event of future school closures**

* Online classes – looking for online classes
* Keep communication up between teachers and students
* Work as per school timetable
* Stricter deadlines for work – giving time guidelines for completing work
* Correcting work and sending this back to students.
* Providing corrections/marking schemes to help parents help students.

School view

I can see how hard our teachers are working to provide the best quality education that they can at present for our students at an extraordinarily difficult time for us all. It is great to see so many students and parents engaging positively with the effort our school is making. I would ask parents to have patience and consider some of the following.

* How hard our teachers are working in preparing regular work for all classes in an unusual setting while maintaining a normal family life – minding children, parents etc.
* How difficult it is to correct homework on a computer as it is a slow onerous task in the circumstances.
* Parents can help by accessing Office 365 which is our school approved platform through their son’s account to ensure that he is engaging with all the work provided in all subject areas.
* Some parents advised that work is not being provided in certain subjects. Please ensure to scroll down to groups on the left hand column and pick the relevant group for the subject required.
* Please try and have work returned to teachers at an appropriate time. Some homework is being uploaded long after midnight.
* Past papers and marking schemes for every subject available on the State Examinations Commission website as follows <https://www.examinations.ie/exammaterialarchive/>

Scroll down to the tab for Papers or Marking Schemes and follow the instructions when you click on the relevant tab.

* Access further learning forums for your son if he doesn’t have enough to keep him going  such as [www.revise.ie](http://www.revise.ie)
* Reading/ listening can be done via Audible <https://stories.audible.com/start-listen> or Borrow box <https://www.borrowbox.com/> - especially helpful for younger students.

Michael Carew (Principal)