March 12th, 2020

**Re: Update for PARENTS regarding the Coronavirus- Covid-19**

Dear Parent,

The HSE and the Government has just announced that Ireland now moves from Phase one - the Containment phase into Phase two – the Delay phase. This means that the time has come for all schools to be closed. Knockbeg college will close today at 3:50pm and will not reopen until March 30th,2020.

Despite the closure, these two weeks are counted as learning time for all, in particular for Leaving Certificate 2 (L2) and Junior Cycle students. The staff of Knockbeg College have given careful consideration to how we can continue to engage with students and help them learn via digital learning, irrespective of these external factors. All L2 and Junior Cycle students will be using Office 365 as a remote learning and teaching tool with the help of their teachers during the period of school closure.

Please ensure your son carries out assignments as directed by their teachers so that they remain focused on the upcoming state examinations. Our advice is that your son should follow his school timetable daily during this period. To allay fears around oral examinations and project work, we want to assure you that these are under review by the State Examinations Commission and we will communicate any changes to you in due course. We want to assure that your son’s best interests at the forefront of all of us at Knockbeg College, the State Examinations Commission and the Department of Education.

If any pupils are feeling unwell on or just before the return date, you are requested to seek advice from your GP by telephone before presenting to the school in person.

Should there be any changes to any information in this notice, you will receive a text from the school. Please remember that this is a protection measure to slow down cross contamination and infection of citizens within the larger community. This does not mean that any of our pupils, their family or staff have been diagnosed with the virus and there is no need for undue concern.

I wish you all continued good health and look forward to seeing you all on March 30th.

Yours Sincerely,

Michael Carew (Principal)