April 2020

**Re: Department of Education and Skills Announcement**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Please see the below link for the Minister of Education's statement on the Junior and Leaving Certificate examinations for 2020. Yesterday was a dramatic day and there is much for us all to take in as a result of the announcement. What this means for students, their parents and the school is far reaching and will require much analysis along with further clarity from the Department of Education and Skills to help us as a school community prepare for the weeks and months ahead. The current situation is not a desirable one, and none of us could have seen these developments a short few weeks ago. It is where we find ourselves and we must all begin to plan carefully how this will affect each of our students in each of our classes in the coming months.

<https://www.education.ie/en/Press-Events/Press-Releases/2020-press-releases/PR20-04-10.html>

As further information becomes available from the Department of Education and Skills along with our representative bodies I will share it with you.  This news will have a significant impact for our Leaving Certificate students.  It will take time for them to process it and the implications it has for their studies over the coming months and their potential entry into third level, further education or apprenticeships. It is going to be a challenge to refocus for the deferred examinations but at least they have dealt with the uncertainty of the exams in June.  We would encourage your son to take a few days off now to relax, freshen up and come back on Monday week to reengage with the work under the expert guidance of their teachers.

Many of you will have questions that have not been answered by yesterday afternoon's announcement on things like practical project work, practical exams, written project work and much more.  As this information comes to us we will share it with you.

The main point that our Junior certificate students can take from the announcement is that CBA’s will not be completed and assessed next term and there will be no exams in June. This is not an ideal scenario, but at least removes the uncertainty for all concerned. We will advise you in relation to the proposed September assessments when such information becomes available.

School will not reopen for teachers and students until further notice. Our teachers will begin again to provide Teaching and Learning support for all students from Monday April 20th.

This is a very challenging time for you and your son but we will come through it.

I hope you are all healthy and keeping well.

I am available by email if you have any further query and I will get back to you.

Kind regards,

Michael Carew