



Tullow Community School

The Mullawn, Tullow, Co Carlow. R93 DT20. Phone 0599151473. www.tullowcommunityschool.ie.

20th of April 2020.

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope you and your family have had a nice Easter break and that you are all keeping safe and well in these challenging times. We appreciate how challenging the current Covid-19 crisis has been for families, and we are working hard to support all students and parents/guardians in our school community as the crisis continues.

We know from feedback from our staff and interactions with students that all are missing the normality of school life as we now adjust to new routines. The past few weeks have presented many challenges, but the collective effort of our entire school community (students, staff, and parents/guardians) in adapting to these new ways of working with remote learning is truly admirable. We are very proud that so many students and our staff worked very hard before Easter to minimise disruption to learning. All of our teaching staff are working hard to ensure that learning continues, **as we start a new term we are once again appealing for the engagement of all of our students in this remote learning process; your support as parents**

and guardians in ensuring student engagement is very important.

As you are aware, schools have remained closed to students since 13 March 2020. The current health advice is that all schools will remain closed to students for the foreseeable future.

We have listened carefully to feedback from students, staff and parents prior to Easter. We want to continue with our efforts for the next term with a focus on teaching, learning and the provision of effective feedback to students.

To facilitate the implementation of a coherent teaching plan for the weeks ahead, we are planning to implement several strategies to maintain and improve student engagement.

This will involve a number of different approaches and may involve a member of staff making contact with your house to discuss how the school can support you and your student/s in participating in remote learning and the tasks set for them. The need for a continued engagement and active level of work from all students is crucial so that a student does not fall behind in their curriculum which will result in serious difficulties for them in class in the future.

Students in Sixth Year and Third Year

We are especially mindful of the decision that affects students in Sixth Year and Third Year regarding the Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate examinations.

As you are aware, the Leaving Certificate has been postponed to late July/early August. The key priority for us as a school is that we will continue to help, guide and support Leaving Certificate students during this demanding time. We will continue to support our students through our pastoral supports over the weeks and months ahead in these uncertain times.

It is also important to note that Junior Certificate examinations have also been postponed to September and are now replaced with school-based exams and assessments early in the new school year.

The Department of Education and Skills and the State Examinations Commission are making every effort to support all students through this challenging time.

Students facing examinations have been asked to keep focused and to keep working in preparation for the exams which are now scheduled for July. More details will be forthcoming soon regarding the Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate examinations and we will bring this information to your attention without delay.

We will continue to update you regarding the school and the state exams through our Twitter account @TullowCommSch and on our website.

Yours Sincerely,

Paul Thornton.
Principal.