

CCC Parents update during Covid 19 Pandemic April 2020

Dear Parents,

We hope that our pupils and their families are keeping safe and healthy in these most unusual of times. With the onslaught of Covid 19, the Taoiseach's sudden announcement on March 12th and immediate closure, the college had a mammoth task of setting up, upskilling and embedding our **Learning Platform Microsoft 365** for nearly 700 users. We thank you for the part you played in this roll out. We use one of its functions called **Teams**:

- To assign work for pupils
- To teach pupils live where possible
- Where pupils upload their assignments for teachers to correct
- Where Year Heads communicate with their Year Groups
- Where we support pupils individually by audio call/video call where necessary and where relevant
- Where we get feedback from pupils/staff

As each account is private to each individual pupil we encourage you to keep up with work assigned and more importantly submitted whilst we teach remotely. Please go to www.clonakiltycc.ie under the relevant year group for all user manuals. We recommend pupils/parents download the Teams app for ease of use. With nearly all pupils now accessing Teams we move into the space this week of improving the **engagement** with work/teaching/assignments.

Extension update: our site closed pre-Easter in line with government directives. We await its reopening to bring you a revised time frame for completion.

Contact details update: please send all queries to office@clonakiltycc.ie where Deirdre or Ashley will respond to you/direct the query to the relevant person. Pupils are encouraged to contact teachers directly via Teams on Microsoft 365.

Office Opening Hours: are revised to the college day during Covid 19 restrictions to support all queries. Mon-Tue 9am – 4pm, Wed – Fri 9am to 3.30pm.

Updates specific to Parents of:

- **1st Years:**
 - Summer Exams will go ahead in the week of May 25th. We ask you to continue to follow the guidance of your teachers on revision for these exams.
 - Our office will attach a copy of your **options for 2nd year** to your child's Teams email this week. Any concerns please contact gmurphy@clonakiltycc.ie
- **2nd Yrs:** Summer Exams will go ahead in the week of May 25th. We ask you to continue to follow the guidance of your teachers on revision for these exams.
- **3rd Yrs:** As published in the media the Junior Cycle as we know it is being **REPLACED** by assignments and continuous assessment. The detail around this is currently being worked out and of course is all dependant on the

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pandemic and how we as a country respond. We are extremely conscious that 3rd years are/have been the most difficult group to engage in remote learning due to the uncertainty around State Exams. However, as we return to school it is vitally important that you oversee your 3rd year's engagement with staff online. Should we be asked to provide marks based on continuous assessment it is these teachers who will be giving same so your child's online efforts may also be marked. We simply do not know. We are as committed as you their parents to keep them focused as working as close to the college day as possible. We will update you via your child's Teams app with the information as it unfolds.

- **TY:**
 - Summer Exams will go ahead in the week of May 18th in Irish, English, Maths and French. Your teachers will advise on the revision/content for same. Your results in these Summer exams as well as your Junior Cert results and input into TY will determine class placement/recommended levels for 5th year.
 - Our office will attach a copy of your **options for 5th year** to your Teams email this week. Any concerns please contact gmurphy@clonakiltycc.ie
- **5th Yrs:** Summer Exams will go ahead in the week of May 25th. We ask you to continue to follow the guidance of your teachers on revision for these exams.
- **6th Yrs:** our poor 6th years- what a deal they have been given this year and how we admire their resilience. Whilst one may not agree with what the Minister has decided – at least it is a decision. It currently looks like 6th yrs will be returning to us early/mid-July for 2 weeks and then into State exams late July/Early August. There appears to be a national plan on the table currently for support of pupils by teachers during June but we await input on this one. On a positive note our LCs have been given the gift of extra time to prepare so we ask that you guide/support them along with ourselves in its use. We will update you via your child's Teams app with the information as it unfolds. In the interim please continue to support, encourage and motivate as you are doing and we will too.

This, too, will pass. The curve is flattening. We will return to our college and more importantly to our college community. We are all in this together and it is through one another, staying connected and remaining grounded that we will not only survive but also grow in these testing times. Continue to stay safe and healthy

Anne Dunne & Anne Sheerin