



St. Malachy's College

36 Antrim Road, Belfast BT15 2AE



7 April 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Boys,

A decision has now been made to hand over the College premises, mainly showers and changing facilities, to be used by the NHS. This is to facilitate medical staff who will be working in the Mater Hospital. As a result, the College is no longer able to house vulnerable children and those of key-workers from Wednesday 8 April. Therefore, alternative arrangements have been made for those who will need supervision. This means that we will work in partnership with Dominican College, Fortwilliam. Thus far, we have had a very small uptake from parents requiring supervision for their sons. However, we have remained open every day with a skeleton staff (rota-basis) working on site. If any of our boys (up to and including Yr 10) who have a parent who is a key worker, and also vulnerable pupils, require supervision then we will continue to follow the same lines of communication. This means parents need to email Ms McCusker by noon the day prior to supervision required. Parents will then be instructed to ensure that their son attends the Dominican College, Fortwilliam building which will include staff representation from St Malachy's College.

All of us at the College should be pleased and indeed proud that we can allow our historic buildings and impressive facilities to support the NHS and play a vital role in the fight against the silent enemy, "Covid-19"! I thank parents for all their messages of support and comments appreciating the efforts of our staff who are continuing to work in school and remotely, using the Google Classroom forum. I want to put on record that I am very grateful to Dominican College for offering their premises and services to allow us to help out our health service. Please continue to look after yourselves, your loved ones, others who need your help and of course, keep our Malachians to a good routine and ensure they benefit from the ICT material and contact with our teachers. It is also a good time to renew our College faith in the power of prayer as we enter 'Holy Week' and during a period when much is being done remotely!

Gloria ab intus and thanks!

Mr P McBride
Principal