



St. Malachy's College

36 Antrim Road, Belfast BT15 2AE



08 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

So much has changed within education over the last few days. As a College we are preparing to deliver Remote Learning, commencing for all students on Monday 11 January. I am aware that the three Heads of School have been in contact with you, outlining the expectations within each Key Stage. Today I share with each of you some documents which relate to this - firstly, a '**Remote Learning Protocol**', and secondly a '**Code of Conduct for Students engaging in Live lessons**'.

We aim to deliver a blended form of Remote Teaching, with work posted using assignments on Google Classroom and some live interaction using Google Meet. To support students and parents with Remote Learning, in particular Google Classroom, resources such as help sheets and videos can be accessed via the College website.

Please support your son as he navigates his remote learning. Many staff plan to upload the assignments at the start of the week, while others will issue work throughout the week. Please assist your son with his planning, making sure that he meets deadlines and submits work as requested. I cannot stress enough the importance of a balanced approach to study. Encourage your son to participate in some exercise every day, and yet also recognise the need for some 'down' time, to relax and enjoy hobbies etc.

KS4 and 5 students have been encouraged to follow their timetable over this period, meanwhile in KS3 we will be encouraging a more blended approach, using a **KS3 Remote Learning Planner**. To assist you in supporting your son as he endeavours to manage his time and plan for a week of Remote Learning, a copy of the planner accompanied by a video guide will be circulated via the Pastoral Google Classrooms on Monday morning. In KS3, I must encourage you to revisit the communication from Mr Heaney who has provided sound guidance for our younger students.

Winter Examinations 2020-21 (13-21 Jan 2021)

It is hoped that when Years 12-14 return for face-to-face teaching that they can safely complete their Mock Examinations. When the PHA guidance starts to indicate that the lockdown is coming to an end, senior students will be given time to revise. I hope that this may be prior to Easter in late February or March, however this will be under regular review.

Years 8-11: These year groups will not have winter exams on their return, instead their next examinations will be scheduled for the summer term (late May – early June). These examinations will be based on all work completed throughout the entire academic year.

Calendar for January:

Finally, I wish to update you on changes within the College Calendar. The staff days originally planned for 14 and 28 January have been postponed, therefore Remote Teaching will take place uninterrupted until Thursday 28 January, with Friday 29 January set aside as a Staff Day.

Thank you for your continued support.

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Vice Principal Curriculum

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