



St. Malachy's College

36 Antrim Road, Belfast BT15 2AE



Dear Year 13/14 Pupils and Parents,

We trust that everyone continues to keep well and healthy at this time. As always our thoughts and prayers are with you and your families as you navigate through this period of lockdown and being physically absent from the College. We have been extremely encouraged by the level of engagement from the majority of our Sixth form students. Now that KS5 students have completed a full week of remote learning, there are a few 'essentials' that I would like to highlight.

Recent communication from CCEA has indicated that ***'the approach*** (to awarding A level grades) ***will be based on teacher professional judgement, with moderation***. ***'To that end it is now more important than ever that students remain engaged in their programmes of learning and are adequately prepared for the transition to the next stage, whatever that might be.'***

We remain unclear as to how teacher professional judgement and moderation will work in practice but to reiterate previous messages, full engagement on a daily basis is essential. In practice, the non-negotiables are the following:

- Registering each morning between 8.30 and 10.00am with your tutor, via the Registration folder in your registration Google Classroom;
- Attending any scheduled live Google Meets – these will be in accordance with your timetable and your teacher will give you prior notice;
- Completing all Google Classroom work and ensuring assignment deadlines are met;
- If you are unable to work from home due to illness or another reason, a parent/carer should contact the class tutor via email.

We do understand that learning from home is more difficult than being in the College. To this end, teachers have been working hard to upload work to Google Classroom and a number have organised live lessons. It is difficult to maintain motivation but it is important to take a day at a time and remain positive. The following tips should help you stay engaged and on top of your work:

- Get a daily routine and stick to it, we advise you to follow your normal school timetable, where possible. Therefore, make sure you are up and ready to work by 9.00am.
- Work through tasks set by your teachers, break it down into manageable chunks and set yourself targets for the day.
- Use what would have been study periods to finish work set or to do some independent study, this remains a vital element as College internal assessments will continue when you are back in school.
- Ensure you maintain a healthy balance, include physical exercise (even if it's just a walk!) and other activities into your daily schedule.
- Don't become overwhelmed with your work – seek subject teacher help.
- All staff are here to answer any concerns – whether that be work related or pastoral.

A Key Stage 5 Revision Skills Powerpoint has been posted to the Year 13 and 14 registration Google classrooms and the school website in the Supporting Remote Learning section. This gives excellent



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advice and practical tips on learning and studying from home. There is also a section on developing resilience.

I would like to remind you that the Counselling Service provided through the EA is available during this period of school closure. If you would like to access counselling you can organise this by contacting Mrs McCusker (Pastoral Vice Principal) or you can make a direct referral online via the link at <https://familyworksni.com> .

We will continue to update you on the awarding of A level grades, as we receive notification. In the meantime, your support and encouragement is appreciated.

Yours sincerely

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