



St. Malachy's College

36 Antrim Road, Belfast BT15 2AE



Dear Parents/ Carers,

We are now in the final two months of the academic year and we would like to give you some important pastoral information and curricular updates. As you are aware this has been a particularly difficult time for our College family and we would like to thank you for your messages of support.

As Mr McBride outlined in his communication to you, pastoral care for our boys remains central to all that we do. We would encourage boys to contact their tutor, Head of Year or any member of the Safeguarding Team if there is anything they are struggling with. With this in mind, the Heads of Year are setting up Pastoral Google Classrooms for each year group and we hope that you will encourage your son to sign up. The Pastoral Teams will be putting up materials on various aspects of the Preventative Curriculum. As we move forward with Google Classroom, we are asking that all the boys sign in using their c2k email addresses and not personal email accounts. So when the boys are registering for the Pastoral Classrooms set up by the Head of Year, they must do so using their c2k email accounts. The access code for the Year 11 Pastoral Google Classroom is 5vuslig. The Code will also be displayed on the MY SCHOOL Home page and classrooms can initially be accessed through the Google Classroom App within the c2k Home page. Any student who needs assistance with c2k passwords can receive help from Mr K O'Kane (ICT Manager kokane550@c2ken.net).

In September 2019, we introduced 'Stress Control' to the Year 12 pastoral programme. Stress Control is a cognitive-behavioural therapy class used both in schools and community settings by the NHS. This course has now become available online with sessions being streamed live over the next few weeks. Details of both the live stream and resources available (that can be used independently) can be found in the Year 11 Google Classroom. More detailed instructions will be shared via subject Classrooms, Parent App and the College Website. You will be receiving further information about this, as will all of our students.

Year 11: Progression into Year 12

We know that this has been a particularly challenging time for our Year 11 boys. Our Key Stage 4 pastoral teams have been contacting many of you over the past week and they will continue to do so over the coming months. We recognise that the boys do need support and please do contact us if you feel there is anything further we can do. It is important for emotional wellbeing that the boys keep busy and we need them to focus on key routines and study practices. GCSE is a two-year course and this academic year will not end until 30 June 2020. The work currently being completed in Google Classrooms for Year 11 is providing a firm foundation and strong starting point for Year 12. Students who are not engaging with courses will find progression into Year 12 very difficult, and these boys should now aim to re-engage with their studies on a daily basis. Please encourage your son to keep up with all work being set and to actively engage with his teachers in Google Classroom. If there are any issues that are preventing your son from completing his work, please contact the relevant teacher or Form Tutor via email.

In a few cases, departments have completed the Year 11 content and plan to begin making preparation for Year 12 courses. As was stated above, learning and teaching for Year 11 students will continue until 30 June.

GCSE Examinations 2020-21 (Science & Maths): In line with current practice, it is planned that the boys will sit modular exams in the Sciences and Maths in the forthcoming examination series (November, January & March). The exact dates will be confirmed and shared once we return.

During these past couple of months, we have had to rely heavily on our IT platforms to communicate on so many levels and about so many important matters. We have made much progress in our use of Google Classroom, and we have been greatly encouraged by the many positive messages received from parents. Feedback from boys and parents, and our own personal experiences of using the likes of ParentApp, the c2k emailing system, Facebook, the College website and most of all Google Classroom are enabling us to make further progress in these areas. We will soon be contacting you about taking steps that will help Google Classroom become even more effective. We

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will also continue to send pastoral and curricular updates to you. Both of us are available in the College if you have any concerns or queries.

Deirdre McCusker

Ms D McCusker
Vice Principal Pastoral

Lou Stewart

Mrs L Stewart
Vice Principal Curriculum

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