



# St. Malachy's College

36 Antrim Road, Belfast BT15 2AE



24 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

The College has endeavoured to remain open from Monday 23 March 2020 to provide study facilities for sons of key-workers up to and including Year 10 pupils, and for vulnerable pupils who need to attend "as a last resort". As stated in my previous letter to you, even if you meet the definition of a key-worker or your son is a vulnerable pupil the government's advice is that, if possible, alternative childcare arrangements should be sought before deciding to send your Key Stage 3 child to school. As the government has now imposed stricter measures, and is encouraging all of those who can to stay at home, it is important that the school facility is used only as a last resort. It is becoming increasingly difficult to open the College as a healthy and safe environment for both boys and staff to attend. We are finding that staff numbers are depleting rapidly due to self-isolation and other related issues.

If you are a key-worker, or your son meets the vulnerable children criteria as set out by the Minister for Education, and you have to avail of a place in the supervised study provision, please inform Ms Deirdre McCusker (Vice Principal) by email ([dmccusker152@c2kni.net](mailto:dmccusker152@c2kni.net)), providing your child's name and class in Key Stage 3 together with the key-worker category applicable. **The email must be received by Ms McCusker before 12 noon at least one day in advance of requiring this facility. It will not be possible to accept a child without prior notice. Please state in your email if your son needs to stay from 9am – 3.25pm, and if not, then write down his time of arrival and departure. If you request a place and find that you are then able to make other arrangements, please notify Ms McCusker that your child will not be attending.** If we are unable to provide the facility for your son due to health and safety then Ms McCusker will inform you of this as soon as reasonably possible.

The College canteen facilities are now closed and we are unable to provide any refreshments at this time. The remainder of the contents in my previous correspondence still stand.

Please note again that if your son or anyone in your household is displaying symptoms of Covid-19, then you should follow the Public Health Agency advice in relation to self-isolation and should not send your son to school until it is safe to do so.

I hope that you can all remain safe and well. The College family will keep praying that we can come through this current challenge as smoothly and quickly as possible, and our thoughts remain with those who are and will be directly affected by the virus, and also those who are on the frontline fighting for our good health.

Gloria ab intus.

Paul McBride  
Principal

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