



St. Malachy's College

36 Antrim Road, Belfast BT15 2AE



1 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

The most recent communication from the Minister of Education identifies Monday 22 March 2021 as the date on which all students in Years 12, 13 and 14 will return to the College for face to face teaching. We look forward to greeting each of them back.

Based upon this information we would like to update you on our plans for the days up to the Easter break.

Monday 22- Wednesday 24 March: Year 12,13 & 14 Face to Face Teaching

Thursday 25 March – Thursday 1 April: Year 12,13 & 14 Mock Assessments.

Please note that Thursday 1 April is no longer a staff day, as some students will be expected to attend.

These mock assessments have been postponed from December 2020 and January 2021. The topics to be assessed have been taught during the first term, and departments will be using the papers previously planned for use in the January session. Please note that no content taught during lockdown will be included at this stage.

The Mock Assessment Timetable, which has been revised slightly, will also be issued today via Parent App and through individual Google Classrooms.

During the incoming weeks, staff have been instructed to finish off teaching the most current topic and begin providing guidance and structured revision material to commence no later than Monday 8 March. This will offer a significant period of support to the boys as they prepare for these assessments.

The results from these mock assessments will be used to help inform part of the Centre Determined Grades (CDGs). However, it is important to note, the performances in these assessments will not be the only evidence used. It is hoped that after Easter, time will permit us to complete other assessments on work covered, therefore providing further evidence and supporting the decisions regarding CDGs. We are awaiting further detailed instruction from CCEA regarding the details of how CDGs are to be formulated and awarded.

We appreciate that this has been a very challenging time for our Malachians and families. Once again, I commend our students for the high level of engagement and diligence throughout this recent period of lockdown. As always, we are blessed with having such supportive parents/carers who continue to maintain a close partnership with us in providing for our boys. It is important that we aim to keep them on task and if necessary, refresh positive routines as we negotiate what hopefully will be the final weeks of the final lockdown.

If you wish any further clarity regarding these matters, please do not hesitate to contact myself or either of the Heads of School – Mrs Rayot (KS5) or Mr Toner (KS4).

Yours sincerely

Mrs Lois Graham
Vice Principal Curriculum

Principal: Mr Paul McBride MA, MEd, B.Mus, PGCE, PQH (NI)

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