



St. Malachy's College

36 Antrim Road, Belfast BT15 2AE



16 June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your support over this extended period of lockdown and also for your oversight and assistance with remote learning.

Setting of any new tasks on Google Classroom by teachers will cease on the week beginning 22 June, and students should use these final days of this academic year to catch up on any work and assignments which have been missed or are incomplete. Our staff will spend much of their time in the final days of this term reviewing the experiences, challenges and opportunities of remote learning, and as such will prepare for the new academic year. Next term will almost likely commence with a combination of face-to-face and remote teaching – known as blended-learning.

The Minister of Education has made numerous references to this blended form of learning. There are various models being considered which are designed to adhere to the social distancing and government guidelines. There is evidently still much discussion and thought required here at all levels. We are giving serious consideration to how various models can address the needs of our boys, in pastoral and academic terms. Before a final decision can be made we must await further instruction and guidance from the Department of Education. We will keep you informed as soon as we receive further instruction and have a model in place, and we will continue to communicate with you throughout the summer months in advance of the opening in mid to late August.

From a pastoral perspective, The Schools' Counselling Service, through FamilyWorks, is still available until the end of June and will also be in place again from mid- August. This can be accessed by emailing Mrs McCusker or a self-referral can be made through the FamilyWorks website, <https://familyworksni.com>

We are interested in gaining an insight into how the 'learning at home' looked like from your perspective. We would really appreciate if you could take a little time and complete an online survey through the following link which will be open from Tuesday 16 June to Tuesday 23 June.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfVOWUAGQAYbaeulmMamP84HU3NpITeC53B_QwOg4XvVvpd9g/viewform?usp=sf_link

Your views will help us plan future remote learning provision.

Keeping communication channels open at this time is vital. The College office will remain open throughout the summer with only a small period of closure during 13 & 14 July 2020. We will continue to contact you directly using Parent App and the information will also be shared using the College Facebook page and website. Please assist us by ensuring you have Parent App on your phone, allowing you to receive notifications and alerts. Instructions relating to the Parent App can be found on the College website.

To enable communication with the students and provide pastoral support, we have established Pastoral Google Classrooms. These can be accessed via the MySchool home page, provided by C2K. We must insist that the boys use their c2k login for these classrooms, as this provides an additional layer of security and increased functionality, enabling parents to be invited to gain an insight into their son's engagement within the academic Google Classrooms. This is very important!

Reports were issued to all year groups not long before lockdown. Therefore, with no Internal Summer examinations taking place, there will be no further reports issued this month. Internal examinations will take place, hopefully as in previous years in December, and will provide the necessary information for the Winter

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report in January 2021. With the introduction of blended and remote learning, the boys' level of engagement will also be used to inform future reports.

As this term comes to an end we wish to thank you for your continued support and look forward to seeing everyone in late August.

Yours sincerely

Deirdre McCusker

Ms D McCusker
Vice Principal Pastoral

Lou Stewart

Mrs L Stewart
Vice Principal Curriculum

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