



# St Benedict's College

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27th March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

As we approach the end of the first school week of "Lockdown" I want to touch base with all our students and parents. May I begin by saying that I hope you and your family are safe and well in these unprecedented times. Obviously school arrangements have changed fundamentally in the last fortnight and we are all adjusting to the new reality we find ourselves in. I am confident that we will all get better at it in the weeks ahead.

## Remote Learning

I want to begin by thanking you for your patience and support in dealing with the technical difficulties we had anticipated and indeed have encountered. Together we have made great progress and the majority of students are now "up and running".

On Monday we placed a suggested timetable and daily routine for students on our website. Parent feedback has been positive. Remember though that the timetable is there only as a guide. You and your child/children will need to establish a routine that works for you and your family. What is important is that there is structure and variety in your child/children's day. It is important to reassure you that you are not expected to home school your child. It is enough that you ensure that, on any given weekday, your child/children are engaged in short school work sessions, where they follow the guidance and complete the work set by their subject teachers. If your child is having difficulty with any of this work please encourage them to make contact with their subject teacher who will be happy to provide them with advice and support. We recognise that keeping your child/children busy is a challenge so we will continue to provide you with suggestions for additional learning activities through our Website and Social Media.

## GCSE Examinations

Parents of students in Year 11 and 12 will naturally be concerned about the situation with the GCSE examinations. At this point we know that there will be no written examinations in May/June and that students are not to progress with controlled assessment tasks. We continue to wait for guidance as to how final grades will be allocated to Year 12 and what the future arrangements will be for Year 11. With this in mind, I would encourage Year 11s in particular to continue with their studies as directed by their subject teachers. Rest assured I will keep you informed as I receive information from the examination board.

## Supervised Learning

Further to my letter of the 23rd March, please remember that if your child needs to attend school for supervised learning on any day, Monday to Friday, of next week, you must contact me before 3.00pm today on my school email [cmcateer744@c2kni.net](mailto:cmcateer744@c2kni.net). Note too that any supervised learning facility is only available to children of key workers or vulnerable children and will only be made available as a last resort, when you have no alternative than to send your child to school.

## Communication

We will continue to communicate with you through our Website, Facebook and text messaging service. I would encourage you to check them regularly. If you want to contact myself or a member of the SLT with particular concerns you might have, please do not hesitate to do so. Our contact details are below.

Mrs C Mc Ateer: [cmcateer744@c2kni.net](mailto:cmcateer744@c2kni.net) (Any matter, including Child Protection and Safeguarding)

Mr D Shivers: [dshivers751@c2kni.net](mailto:dshivers751@c2kni.net) (Matters relating to Learning and Teaching)

Mr P Mc Kendry [pmckendry651@c2kni.net](mailto:pmckendry651@c2kni.net) (Matters relating to Pastoral Care)

Mrs B Kelly [bkelly547@c2kni.net](mailto:bkelly547@c2kni.net) (Matters relating to SEN)

Rest assured of the entire St Benedict's Team's ongoing commitment to you and your child.

God Bless.

Yours sincerely

Catriona Mc Ateer

(Principal)