

CARRICKFERGUS GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Principal:

J.A. Maxwell

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Education Authority - North-Eastern Region

18 March 2020

Dear Parent / Guardian

The Minister of Education, Mr Peter Weir, has written to schools this evening to advise that they will close from the end of the day on Friday 20th March for all pupils. The arrangements as advised in my letter from earlier today still stand. Years 8-10 will work from home on Thursday and Friday. Years 11-14 will continue to attend school as normal. We await clarification from the local exam board CCEA as regards arrangements for public examinations. Until this happens, we feel that it is prudent to continue to run exam classes as normal tomorrow and Friday. We will continue to communicate with you as the situation develops.

It is very important that I pass on my sincerest gratitude to all parents in the school community for the support which has been displayed in recent days, in very challenging circumstances. We have appreciated the e-mails and phone calls of support. Above all, your sons and daughters are an absolute credit to school, to their families and – most importantly – to themselves. Today I spent time during lunch speaking with students about the current context and listening to their queries and thoughts. I have been totally struck by the stoicism, resilience and positivity they are displaying, and it remains a sheer privilege to work alongside such an outstanding community of very fine young people. I am very proud of them all, without exception. We appreciate that students due to sit public examinations may feel very anxious, and school will continue to do what it can in upcoming days to reassure students as best as possible. In addition, Mrs Kane will soon be sending out information with advice on wellbeing strategies as students prepare to study remotely.

I also wish to pay tribute to the fabulous staff at this school, who continue to go above and beyond in endeavouring to support our students, and who continue to work assiduously and collegially to ensure that the appropriate mechanisms are in place to support our students remotely from Monday.

FURTHER EXCELLENCE from PRESENT STRENGTHS

www.carrickfergusgrammar.com

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Most students will now have received their Google Classroom codes. By 9am in the morning, all codes will have been e-mailed out to parents for your information. Students should endeavour to maintain self-discipline in their daily routine, and should try as far as possible to access their online classrooms when they are timetabled for that subject.

May I also remind you of the school hotline number **07395930976**. Please feel free to access this number in order to speak with a school representative at any time.

Finally please rest assured of my own personal commitment to do my best by you and your child in upcoming days and weeks, and I remain fully at the service of the school community as we move into uncharted waters.

I look forward to communicating with you further in due course.

Yours faithfully

J. A. Maxwell
Principal

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