



29th April 2020

Dear 6th Year Parent/Guardian and Student

Firstly, I hope all of you are safe and well. This is not a normal time to be a leaving certificate student or a leaving certificate teacher. It goes without saying that we are all finding the new 'normal' challenging. Students are finding it difficult to stay motivated and are missing the interaction with their teachers and fellow students. Teachers are experiencing the frustration of trying to help students from a distance. Our school thrives on the good relationships between the teachers and the students and maintaining these relationships during this time is very important.

Students are used to teachers cajoling them into work, teachers going over things again with them individually, teachers doing extra classes and generally drumming the information into them. Your year head Ms Chambers has worked tirelessly to maintain contact with you all and I want to thank her for that. She has been phoning to encourage, cajole and push you to reach your potential. Your guidance counsellor Ms Murphy and all the other teachers have been in contact with you doing the same and I want to thank them for putting all that effort in and for caring.

The best advice we have is to make sure you work closely with your teachers from now until the end of May, take a break at the start of June for a week or two and then get back to independent study. We will have two weeks together in July to do that final preparation for the exams and finish off projects etc. These weeks until the end of May are a fantastic opportunity to practice exam questions and get them corrected, to ask questions of teachers where there is confusion and generally work with teachers.

In order to ensure that you and your parents are clear on the work and support being provided by teachers we have compiled a list of the support being offered in different subjects. Some teachers are using Microsoft Teams for online classes, some teachers are using OneNote, some are using email and combinations of these. Not every teacher is interacting in the same way as it depends on the subject and the teacher's broadband and personal circumstances. Please check your email daily and your OneNote notebooks.

The Leaving Certificate list is available here: <http://www.sbc.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Engagement-with-and-required-of-Leaving-Certs.pdf>

The LCA list is available here: <http://www.sbc.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Engagement-with-and-required-of-LCAs.pdf>

It is imperative that you engage now with all these online resources. If you are finding it too difficult to keep up with the work or have any other difficulties, please email individual teachers and explain to them. The main thing is to make an effort in each subject.

It is essential to establish a healthy routine each day – getting up early in the morning, working a set number of hours, taking breaks, getting exercise and sleeping well. It is a good

idea to prepare a study plan for each day and stick to it as much as possible. Once you have an established routine the days fly by and each evening you will have a sense of accomplishment instead of worry and unease.

After the exams are over we hope to have our graduation mass as promised depending on government guidelines and we are looking forward to seeing you all in person in July.

We will be arranging a short online meeting on Friday with all Leaving Cert students at 1:00 p.m. We will invite all sixth years to the meeting and would ask you to join us.

I wish you all well. Should you have any queries, or should we be able to support you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us on admin@sbc.ie, derry.odonovan@sbc.ie or helen.cadogan@sbc.ie.

Stay safe and well.

Yours faithfully

HELEN CADOGAN
PRINCIPAL