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23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

Dear 6<sup>th</sup> Year Parent/Guardian/Student

Firstly, I hope you are all well and safe. At the moment, we are all dealing with a time of uncertainty particularly for examination students. We realise that there are a lot of unanswered questions but be reassured we will update you with information and clarity as soon as we get it.

At present, it seems that the examinations will begin on Wednesday the 29<sup>th</sup> July. The timetable for the exams is expected to be issued in early June. In the meantime, all your teachers are continuing to engage with you through OneNote, email and/or Microsoft Teams. It is essential that you continue to engage with them.

We are hoping as the Department of Education is suggesting that we will be open for two weeks in July where we will arrange a timetable where you will have blocks of time with your teachers e.g. a morning of maths and an afternoon of English and so on. This will facilitate you maximising time with teachers.

The plan for now as regards projects e.g. history, geography, engineering etc. is that these will be completed at the end of July and the deadlines for these projects will be in the last days prior to the commencement of the written timetable. Any practical exams that were due to take place in May such as Art and Construction Studies etc. will now be included in the main exam timetable. LCA tasks and practicals will also be in August as part of the main exam timetable.

Please be reassured you are in the same boat as all the other Leaving Certificate students and we will make sure that everything is done to get these parts of your courses completed.

Minister McHugh has announced that schools will be given funding to purchase laptops to loan to students who may need them until after the Leaving Cert or LCA exams. He has also announced that arrangements are being made with broadband and mobile phone providers to make the main educational websites free to access using your phone's data. Having looked at this plan for laptops we know that it could take at least six weeks to get laptops to loan out by the time the money arrives and they are ordered and delivered. We do have some laptops available in the school and we will loan them to any Leaving Certificate or LCA student who need them until after the exams.

If any of you feel you need this facility please email [admin@sbc.ie](mailto:admin@sbc.ie). In order for the laptops to work you must first sign in once with your username and password within the school building and then it will work at home. Once we get an email we will arrange an appointment for each person to call to the school, early next week, log into the laptop on your own there and leave with the laptop. We will facilitate only one student at a time and will make specific appointments to ensure social distancing.

Once again to clarify if you need to borrow a laptop between now and the end of the exams please email [admin@sbc.ie](mailto:admin@sbc.ie) with your name and stating your need and we will get back to you regarding collection. We are prioritising leaving certs and LCAs but would also like to support other classes so please only look for the laptops if you need them.

Please take care of yourselves. If you need any type of support email your teachers, your guidance counsellor, your tutor or your year head and we will get back to you and help you wherever possible. My own email address is [helen.cadogan@sbc.ie](mailto:helen.cadogan@sbc.ie) and Mr O'Donovan's is [derry.odonovan@sbc.ie](mailto:derry.odonovan@sbc.ie) if you need our help.

You have been with us for many years and you are very important to us. It is difficult for us all not to see you each day and be able to support you but while we cannot physically meet we are still there for you. Keep in touch and don't be afraid to ask for help.

Stay safe and well.

Yours faithfully

HELEN CADOGAN  
PRINCIPAL