



19th March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

We are now in unprecedented times as a country and as a school. As you know the government has asked us all to socially isolate ourselves for the protection of not just us but our whole community. All schools have been asked to continue to work with our students while this crisis continues. We have been told that the return date for school is the 30th March however, if or when this changes we will keep you informed.

One of the biggest challenges all of us with families face is keeping our children busy and in a routine that will support their health and wellbeing both physical and mental. All in St. Brogan's College will do our best to support you in this.

As a school we are lucky having already started our digital learning journey so all our students have office 365 email addresses and passwords and are able to access email on outlook, Word, PowerPoint, Teams and OneNote which is what our teachers use mostly to pass on information to and teach your children. Your children can access Office 365 on any tablet, laptop, PC or phone. They can complete assignments in their copies, take photographs and send them back to the teachers using their phones.

Our teachers have been teaching your children remotely since last Friday and we are delighted with the engagement shown by students. We will continue to work with students during this time and we would ask you to encourage your children to log on regularly throughout the day to be taught and to complete assignments. They have email addresses for all their teachers and can get in touch with them if they have questions. We would ask that these emails not be sent after 5:00 p.m. As you can imagine our teachers are prioritising third and sixth years during this time. As teachers we also have our own children at home and so will sometimes have to work around them.

All your children took their books home on Thursday afternoon. We would advise you to set up a place for them to work and study and establish a routine. Routines are essential for maintaining our mental and physical wellbeing.

Update for Junior and Leaving Cert Students

Orals & Practical Performance tests (originally scheduled from Monday 23 March to Friday 3 April) are cancelled. These tests are in the following subjects:

- Leaving Certificate Irish and the Modern Languages of French, German, Spanish, Italian, Russian and Japanese
- Leaving Certificate Music
- Junior Cycle Music and Home Economics

Students who were due to sit the orals or practical performance tests in the affected subjects will take their final written examinations in these subjects at the level they have indicated when confirming their subject choices to the State Examinations Commission earlier this year.

Project and Course Work completion deadlines are extended to Friday 15 May for the following subjects:

- Leaving Certificate Computer Science, Physical Education, Technology, Art, Agricultural Science, Agricultural Economics, History, Geography, Religious Education, Politics and Society, Music, Constructions Studies and Home Economics;
- Junior Cycle Metalwork, Materials Technology Wood, Technology and Religious Education;
- Junior Cycle Assessment Tasks in English, Irish, Modern languages, Science and Business Studies.
- Second phase of practical examinations remain as originally scheduled from Monday 27 April to Friday 8 May, as well as the final written examination in the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP) scheduled for Wednesday 6 May, a range of oral and practical tests in the Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) programme, along with the first examination in Leaving Certificate Computer Science on Wednesday 27 May, and the final written examinations commencing on 3 June.

Online supports:

1. www.khanacademy.org
2. <https://irevise.com/ie>. This company are giving free access to their notes for one month. To access use the code STUDYCENTRE or STUDYHELP.
3. www.studyclix.ie – excellent website for going over past exam papers and questions.
4. Free Access to CJ Fallon online books. Please click on the link to access all CJ Fallon books. <https://my.cjfallon.ie/dashboard/student-resources/...>
5. Free Access to Folens Digital Resources and e-Books. To lend a helping hand to schools and parents over the coming weeks Folens are giving access to all their digital resources and eBooks on FolensOnline.ie. Parents, students and teachers can follow the steps below to get access:
 - a. Go to FolensOnline.ie and click register
 - b. Select Teacher
 - c. Fill in a username, email and password
 - d. For Roll Number use the code: Sec20
6. Edco Learning have shared all ebooks for free. Go to www.edcolearning.ie/login. For Primary the username is primaredcobooks, for junior cycle the username is jcedcobooks and for leaving cert the username is lcedcobooks. For all three sections the password is edco2020.

Contacting the school:

1. You can contact the school by emailing admin@sbc.ie and if necessary, we will phone you back.
2. If there are any issues relating to IT and students getting access to online learning please email ict@sbc.ie

3. We will communicate with you using text, the website, VShare and social media.
4. www.education.ie – updates on what is happening in the Department of Education.

This is an unprecedented situation and we will continue to come together to look for solutions to any difficulties. We will as always work in the best interests of our students. We encourage parents to emphasise the importance of social distancing to all in their care so we can protect the most vulnerable in our communities.

We realise that many of our students will find the uncertainty of the forthcoming weeks quite unsettling. I want to reassure parents and students that the Department of Education have always made decisions which are student-centred. We have no control over what decisions the state agencies make; we do, however, have control over the actions we can take. Now that leaving certs know the orals and leaving cert music practicals will no longer take place they can concentrate on their study schedules and preparations for the state exams. Similarly, for the junior cycle students the music and home economics practicals are cancelled and they should now focus on preparation for the state exams.

We will continue to send you updates and are currently working on some ideas also to support the wellbeing of our students. On a personal note we wish all in the St. Brogan's community the best in these difficult times. Take care of yourselves.

I will update you regularly as time goes by.

Yours faithfully

HELEN CADOGAN
PRINCIPAL