



Larkin Community College Coláiste Pobail Lorcáin

8th January 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

We would like to take this opportunity to reconnect with all our students and families after the Christmas Holidays. We hope that you are all keeping safe and well and that you each had an opportunity to relax and enjoy the break. These are challenging times for everyone and we really appreciate the support you have given us and thank you for continuing to work with us for the benefit of your child's education.

We were very hopeful before the Christmas break that school would reopen on 6th January 2021 and that school-life could continue like it did prior to Christmas. The students and staff of the school were simply remarkable in how careful and respectful each and everyone of them have been with minimising risk of infection and looking after one another in our community.

As you are aware, the government has closed all schools for the next three weeks and has moved learning online. The plan to have 6th Year students attend school for 3 days per week has been paused by the Minister for Education – if this changes we will keep you updated.

We know from the feedback from students, teachers, parents and guardians that there are many challenges to participating in online learning. As a school community we will do our very best to help support you in overcoming these.

How we will support your child/children

We appreciate how challenging the Covid-19 crisis has been for families, and particularly students. Please rest assured that we are working hard to support all students and parents/guardians in our school community as the pandemic evolves. We have learned a lot since March 2020 and this will stand to us all as we work through the next few weeks.

We gleaned considerable best-practice from your feedback, that of our staff and our interactions with students when schools were forced to close last March. The last period of school closure presented many challenges, but the resolve of our students, staff and parents/guardians to engage in every effort to upskill and adapt to Remote Teaching and Learning was truly inspirational. Everyone in our school community is prepared for Remote Learning in an effort to fulfil a continuity of learning in the coming days.

Online Learning Platform

The school's online teaching and learning platform is Microsoft 365 (Teams) – each student has their own school account and has been using their school email and Microsoft Teams in school.

Students can access their Office 365 account by visiting our website

at <http://www.larkincommunitycollege.ie/>, going to the **Office 365** link in the bottom left corner of the page and clicking on the **Sign in**.

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Online Learning – Beginning Monday 11th January

10:45am Each year group will have an online assembly with their Tutors, Year Head and Coordinator. The plan for online teaching and learning will be explained to the students and it will be an opportunity to have any questions they have may about it answered. **An email has been sent to each student inviting them to this assembly. They should accept the invitation.**

The Next Three Weeks

We will focus our efforts for the three weeks of school closures on teaching, learning and the provision of effective feedback to students.

To this end, we held a staff meeting today and we plan on holding subject planning meetings on Monday 11th January 2021 to coordinate the most effective work-stream for the ensuing week period and to provide for enriched feedback to your child/children. Students are asked to check their school email accounts for updates from their teachers on the plan for the week ahead.

Your child will have a blend of on-line 'live' classes, 'flipped learning' lessons, assignments and homework. Teachers will communicate this information to students.

We advise that students get up early in the morning and connect with their learning as per their school timetable.

It is also important to ensure students get exercise and take a break from schoolwork and study. Additional advice on strategies to look for personal wellbeing are available on our website.

Students facing examinations are asked to keep focused and to keep working in preparation for the exams. More details will be forthcoming in the near future regarding the Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate examinations and we will bring this information to your attention without delay.

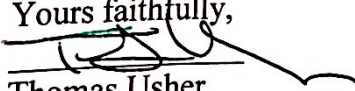
We absolutely appreciate this is a very difficult time for all members of the school community. I want to assure you that we are here to support you in every way that we can during this challenging and uncertain time.

Should you have any concerns or queries have no hesitation in contacting us at **larkinupdates@lcc.cdetb.ie**

You will find lots of helpful information in the WELLBEING section of our website:
<http://www.larkincommunitycollege.ie/wellbeing>

Finally, I wish that you all keep well, remain strong and positive and look after one another.

Yours faithfully,


Thomas Usher