



Larkin Community College Coláiste Pobail Lorcáin

Email: larkinupdates@lcc.cdetb.ie

19th March 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians & Students,

We hope this letter finds you well during these unprecedented times and wish to advise you of school continuity measures taken to date. The school building is closed and therefore the phonenumber is not in operation. If you wish to make contact with the school please email: larkinupdates@lcc.cdetb.ie. This email account is monitored during the normal school times.

We fully realise that the uncertainty around State Exams at the moment is causing anxiety, to Leaving Cert students in particular, and they are wondering if the exams will go ahead at all and what will happen to places in third level. Those who wish to do apprenticeships are in similar uncertainty. We will communicate with students and parents/guardians any updates we receive regarding this from the State Examinations Commission.

Minister Joe McHugh made an announcement this morning with regard to the Junior and Leaving Cert oral and practical exams.

A summary of the announcements include:

- Practicals in Junior Cert Music and Home Economics won't go ahead and students will be awarded full marks.
- Oral tests in Leaving Certificate Irish and the Modern Languages of French, German, Spanish, Italian, Russian and Japanese won't go ahead and students will be awarded full marks.
- Deadlines for coursework are extended to the 15th of May. Eg: history, geography etc

This will allow our Junior and Leaving Cert students more time to study and focus on the written element of the exams. [Click here for the full statement](#)

We will continue to keep you updated as the situation develops.

We must operate on the basis that there will be some kind of Leaving Certificate exams. For that reason parents/guardians should ensure that students follow a routine of work each day but also make sure that there is plenty of exercise and break time built in. Engaging with Edmodo and Office 365, our online platforms for learning and teaching is vital. If there are any difficulties in this regard please email larkinupdates@lcc.cdetb.ie.

It would be very easy to allow students to get into bad habits like lying in bed all morning, playing video games late into the night etc. This virus will pass and education will be a vital part of the return to normality. This is now a time for students and indeed parents/guardians to learn new ways of learning and prepare themselves for the future.



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Edmodo and Office 365 are the primary online learning tools, although some teachers may use other applications. Parents can check the work set by teachers on their son/daughter's account. Work will be set as per the normal school timetable and teachers will give feedback to students during the week. Below is a guide for students and parents in relation to remote learning. If there are any issues accessing the online work, please email larkinupdates@lcc.cdetb.ie

Continuous Learning Guide for Larkin Community College Students:

- Our teachers will endeavour to support you through blended learning (online support & work assigned to you before closure).
- If parents/guardians could encourage their daughter(s)/son(s) to submit assigned work, we would be most grateful. Please urge them to do so within the agreed timeframes.
- Check your Edmodo and Office 365 accounts regularly.
- Establish a daily routine to support your learning - try to follow your normal school timetable
- Identify a comfortable, quiet space so you can work effectively and successfully.
- Check our website and twitter account for regular updates
- Complete assignments with integrity and academic honesty, showing your learning.
- Communicate with your teachers regularly – during the normal school day.
- Communicate with and support your friends and classmates regularly.
- Take breaks, exercise and play – whilst following the social distancing guidelines and practicing good hygiene as per the HSE guidelines.
- Speak to parents / guardians at home if you need support or help.
- If you experience any technical problems email larkinupdates@lcc.cdetb.ie

Up-to-Date Communication and links to other resources

- The school will communicate any information through normal channels such as SMS, student emails, VSware, and please follow us on social media.

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/LarkinCDETB>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/larkincdetb/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Larkincollege>
Website: [Larkin Community College](http://www.larkincommunitycollege.ie)

There are links to numerous resources for all subjects, at all levels, free access to books, study guides etc.

The State Examinations Commission (SEC):

- If the practicals and orals are postponed for our students, it is essential to note they will be delayed for all students across the country. Please check for accurate updates on the [State Exams Website](http://www.stateexams.ie).

Príomhoide: Thomas Usher **Príomhoide Ionaid:** Deirdre Doyle **Príomhfheidhmeannach:** Carol Hanney BA, H Dip Ed, M Ed.
Champions Avenue, Dublin 1.

T: (01) 874 1913 / 874 1926 / 874 1928 **F:** (01) 874 9127

G: www.larkincommunitycollege.ie **R:** info@larkincommunitycollege.ie

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ICT Support

- Should you have any queries re ICT supports, email larkinupdates@lcc.cdetb.ie

Programme & Subject Choice for 2020-2021

- We are currently developing digital resources to support programme and subject choice for our current 3rd and Transition Year students. We will issue a communication to relevant parents/guardians and students once it is ready for distribution.
- In the interim, students and parents have access to [Careers Portal](#) to support the students' career inquiries. All students can complete their own career profile and use a number of self assessment tools.

This is a challenging time for our community and our country, please continue to follow all the advice from the HSE including social distancing of students when not in school.

We hope that you and your families remain safe and well.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas Usher

Principal