



Letter from Matthew Bartlett, Head Master

Thursday 19th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

The Deputy First Minister spoke at 2pm and announced the following:

Schools will close from the end of the day tomorrow (Friday 20th March) to suppress the spread of the coronavirus and because it is becoming difficult to sustain the educational provision. The examination diet for 2020 has been cancelled.

However, he added three important areas for consideration:

1. That all schools must continue to support and protect vulnerable young people
2. There would be provisions for essential workers
3. That there should be educational continuity for young people in S4-S6 to ensure that they can complete assignments and coursework, following the unaltered and published timetable. This might involve students coming into school for their assignments under supervised conditions or work might be submitted electronically

All schools were encouraged to use electronic platforms to ensure that work was provided for pupils, but not necessarily following the timetable a pupil might usually follow.

We have today spoken with all young people in S4-S6 and I have just met with all colleagues. Much has still to be clarified but I did not wish to delay writing to you. However our staff remain phenomenal in the face of such anxiety: they are determined to continue to get it right for every young person regardless of the personal pressures on them.

What we know:

- **St Aloysius' College will be closed to pupils from 3.45pm tomorrow afternoon.** In line with government guidance we do not know whether we will open after Easter or indeed before the summer. We will keep everyone fully updated by email of progress to reopen but this is dictated by government
- We are sending out a survey for parents/carers **who consider themselves key workers** to complete. You can find the survey [here](#). This needs to be completed by **9am tomorrow**. This will determine what provision we may/may not be able to make. Please note that the Deputy First Minister was clear that provision was only for those where both parents were key workers or where a key worker formed part of a single parent household. This would not be a taught provision and we are regulated by the SSSC for early years provision which limits our actions. We understand that for health reasons many will chose to self-isolate in any event
- We will provide details of how to access **electronic learning** and what this means for all pupils from KG to S6. This will be issued tomorrow. Please note that the DFM was clear that parents are not expected to recreate the school day or become teachers. Schoology will provide a capacity to contact us, although you may wait a little longer for a reply than usual



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- SQA Assessments and coursework will continue as planned on the existing timetable and students in S4-S6 will be invited into College for this precise purpose. Full details of this will follow tomorrow once we have further SQA guidance
- Grades will be based on teacher assessment of learning, coursework/assessments and prior attainment. We await much clarification on this
- Awards will be released by 4th August

What we don't know:

- The timescale for reopening
- The detail of grades being awarded
- How universities are going to manage this: but we have every confidence that they want the best for their potential students and don't want any young person disadvantaged

These are uncertain times for everyone. Parents and students rightly have lots of questions, mostly specific. We will not be in a position to respond until we have further advice from the SQA and we appreciate your patience until that guidance is received. Your email will be responded to timeously but there may be a little delay if we are not in possession of the relevant information for government or SQA.

I really appreciate your support and your sense of community in challenging times. You will receive further communications tomorrow, and for pupils in the Junior School a separate mailing about the new electronic platform.

Kindest regards and prayers

Matthew Bartlett

Head Master



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