



Letter from Matthew Bartlett, Head Master

Tuesday 24th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

We live in unprecedented times and I never thought I would be in College preparing to put it in 'mothballs' after the announcement yesterday evening of effective 'lockdown' for our country. It is one of the most difficult things I have needed to do and the first time in 160 years that our wonderful school has closed for an extended period. However, I recognise that people come first and the health and safety of our community must be paramount.

What has touched me is the vast number of parents and friends of the College who have taken time to write, email, ring or text to express their support. We are a very special community here on Garnethill and your response has demonstrated that so clearly in these exceptionally challenging times. Thank you: it means a huge amount to me and to all the team. Our Governors, who have been supporting the team throughout these difficult times, appreciate just how much this support means and thank everyone for their continuing commitment to our unique and very special Jesuit education.

We do not know what closure actually means and it is probably best not to speculate. Clearly, we will not be open now before Easter and when we will open after Easter is still uncertain given the constantly evolving situation. However, rest assured that as soon as the government says it is safe to reopen we will do so. We will clearly then look at term dates to maximise learning. Until then our staff remain committed to providing remote learning through Schoology and our teaching staff are dedicated to ensuring continuity for our pupils. Work will be set through to 3rd April (when we were due to break for Easter) and there will be suggestions for activities during the Easter Break.

Please note, for our older pupils who are moving into S5 and S6, our Higher and Advanced Higher Courses will be delivered post Easter, either in person if we are open, or electronically if the country remains in 'lockdown'.

Staff will also prepare the allocation of predicted grades for submission to SQA, assessment of coursework that will be needed for final certification as well as providing liaison and advice with universities. Many of these require clarification from the SQA and the universities as to what is required. Mr Anderson will provide updates for all pupils and parents about this as and when we are updated. We ask for our older students to continue working and seeking help on assignments and to submit them electronically as instructed.

All our staff continue to work from home and they can access and check their emails. They will of course respond to specific subject or class queries. However, I am listing the email addresses of some staff by way of reminder for specific queries:

Senior School:

Queries about learning and teaching, assessments and courses:

John Anderson, Depute

JDAnderson@staloyisius.org



Queries about Schoology and remote learning:

James Cluckie, Assistant Head JCluckie@staloyisus.org

Pastoral concerns, support for all young people:

Isabelle Erskine, Senior Depute IErskine@staloyisus.org

(Year Heads are all still contactable by their email if you have a specific year based question)

Queries about changes to options/options choices:

Tony Harkins, Timetabler AHarkins@staloyisus.org

Questions about activities and events:

Paul Fitzpatrick, Head of Magis PFitzpatrick@staloyisus.org

Admissions enquiries:

Paul Fitzpatrick PFitzpatrick@staloyisus.org

Junior School:

Schoology coordinator and any learning and teaching queries:

Frank McHugh, Depute FMcHugh@staloyisus.org

Pastoral concerns, support for all young people:

Emma Sharp, Depute ESharp@staloyisus.org

Early Years queries and support:

Karen Brown, Depute KBrown@staloyisus.org

Admissions enquiries:

Louise McElroy LMcElroy@staloyisus.org

The administration of the College continues to operate remotely using Microsoft teams, virtual meetings (of both leadership and Governors), email and Whatsapp. The Bursar's department is functioning remotely as well.



**ST ALOYSIUS'
COLLEGE**

Finance:

Bursar:

Kathleen Sweeney

Bursar@staloyisus.org

College Administration:

Head Master:

Matthew Bartlett

MDBartlett@staloyisus.org

And in conclusion:

Rest assured that you will continue to be updated electronically by the College as to any developments nationally or as they affect the College. We look forward to the day when we can reopen and move back from virtual to the face to face learning we so enjoy. Please keep yourselves and your families safe and well. Our prayers and our petitions can help us through this situation towards better times.

With all my good wishes, thoughts and prayers,

Matthew Bartlett

Head Master



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Matthew D. Bartlett HEAD MASTER

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GREAT THINGS HAPPEN IN THE GREEN BLAZER