



# ST. MARY'S SECONDARY SCHOOL

HOLY FAITH CONVENT, GLASNEVIN, DUBLIN 11



12<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

As you are aware an announcement was made this morning by the Taoiseach Leo Varadkar TD of the closure of schools, pre-schools and further and higher education settings. for a period until 29 March 2020, to support efforts to contain the spread of Covid-19 to take effect from 6pm on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March. This is in line with the advice of the National Public Health Emergency Team.

All students are urged to practice social distancing, and to minimise physical contact with each other, to help avoid the spread of Covid-19. This should include minimising social contact, avoiding meeting up and keeping physical space between them. Parents and guardians are urged to support their children to maintain this approach. (Please see advice for parents issued by the Department of Education and Skills by following this link: [Download advice for parents and schools](#)).

In order to minimise the impact on teaching and learning we have been working on a contingency plan in preparation for a possible closure and all our students are now set up for remote learning through the Office 365 platform. Before we closed today all students had been provided with access to their Office 365 accounts and teachers have set up Microsoft Teams to communicate with their individual class groups and teach them remotely through this platform. Students are asked to treat each school day as a normal school day structured around their school timetable where learning will occur between 8.55am and the end of the school day. Students have been encouraged to take home whatever books they need and to use E-books where available by utilising the codes.

Tomorrow teachers will link in with their students to explain how they will be working with them online during the period of school closure. Online lessons will begin in earnest next Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March after the break for St Patrick's Day.

We have been following the advice of the HSE since the outbreak of Covid-19 and have been updating you on our website which we will continue to do over the coming weeks. We will update you on any information we receive from the State Examinations Commission and from the Department of Education regarding a return date.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all those affected by the Coronavirus and we urge all our students to maintain the social distancing advised by the HSE and to stay safe and well.

Yours faithfully,

Bernadette Bourke  
Principal

