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**Acting Principal** Mr Paul Berne | BA Hons | PGCE

7th January 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well. I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on the changes that have been made for schools and educational settings over the past few days due to the increase in Covid-19 cases.

#### **Extended period of remote learning.**

As of Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021, all post primary schools are required to provide remote learning at home to their pupils rather than face-to-face teaching in school until the February half term break. Pupils are due to return to Edmund Rice College on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021.

#### **Remote learning.**

Our provision for remote learning commenced yesterday through Google Classroom. All pupils have been assigned to individual classrooms for each subject. Whilst we were very proud of our provision during the first lockdown, we are determined to ensure that we provide even more effective and innovative remote learning this time. We listened to the parental survey in June 2020, and we know our pupils missed that connection with teachers. Therefore, we will be providing more audio and visual instructions to compliment the activities and work set on a daily basis. Pupils should follow their normal daily timetable for each subject and spend a few hours each day completing work. Over the past two days, our dedicated specialist support team have been compiling learning packs for those without computer or internet access or those who have requested them. Form Teachers will also set up their own form class Google Classroom so they can check in on pupils daily. We also intend to trial some live lessons and a small number of teachers will implement this over the next few weeks. Every morning on our Facebook page, there will be three extension quizzes set for pupils in Maths, English and Science. Whilst it is very difficult to replicate the physical school virtually, staff are determined to ensure that all our pupils continue to receive excellent learning opportunities over the next few weeks. I know that we will not be found wanting in this regard.

## **Google Classroom issues/Password Changes**

If you are having any difficulties with Google Classroom or require a password change, please email our dedicated team who will support you.

Mr McClelland: [dmcclelland787@c2kni.net](mailto:dmcclelland787@c2kni.net)

Mr Kornas: [mkornas414@c2kni.net](mailto:mkornas414@c2kni.net)

If you require any further assistance, please contact our office staff on 02890 848433. Over the next six weeks, the office opening hours are as follows:

Monday: 9am-3pm

Tuesday: 9am-3pm

Wednesday- CLOSED. Please email [info@edmundricecollege.co.uk](mailto:info@edmundricecollege.co.uk) on this day with any queries.

Thursday: 9am-3pm

Friday: 9am-3pm

## **GCSE and A' Level Examinations**

All GCSE, AS and A' Level examinations have been cancelled. Plans for awarding arrangements to replace the exams should be finalised by the end of January. It is extremely important that all pupils who were due to sit GCSE, AS or A Level exams continue with their studies on Google Classroom as it is expected that a range of evidence will be required by the awarding bodies. Furthermore, if your child wants to study a certain subject at A' Level, it is important that they continue to develop those skills and knowledge over the next few weeks. Alternative arrangements will be communicated out as and when we have them.

## **Free School Meals**

Provision in lieu on free school meals will be made to those children entitled to free school meals while normally in school.

## **Communication**

We will communicate regularly with you over the next six weeks through phone calls, our school website, social media accounts and email. Our preferred method of communication is through email. Please ensure our office staff have your most up to date email address. Please check your spam account regularly as sometimes emails can be sent there. Please check our website and social media accounts for updates, in addition to your email account.

We are in a much better position than we were in March. As a school community, parents, teachers and pupils are much better equipped for the next six weeks. This will not last forever and we cannot wait to safely welcome all our pupils back to Edmund Rice College to do the job that we love.

We fully appreciate that all our families' situations and circumstances will be different in the next few weeks. Please do not put enormous pressure on yourself in relation to home schooling. Just do your best and we will do what we always do on return. In the meantime, if you require any support or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Take care and God Bless,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Berne', with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

P Berne  
Acting Principal