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

23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Firstly, I hope that you and your family are well. Our priority remains the wellbeing of our pupils, families and Edmund Rice College community.

From today, Edmund Rice College is closed until further notice. Access to the school will only be granted to the very small number of key worker children who have requested supervision. It was extremely quiet on the corridors this morning. The Monday morning 'buzz' was not present and I missed welcoming our staff and our children through the doors. It has been a difficult and challenging week with lots of uncertainty. However, one thing is certain; We have a staff and a community that will be there for each other throughout this time. We are blessed to have an incredible staff in Edmund Rice College and their togetherness and willingness to help has filled me with great pride over the past week.

I want to take this opportunity to outline how we will be there to support you in the weeks ahead.

### **Online Learning**

All our learning for Years 8-14 has been placed on Google Classroom. Details of how to gain access is on our website and pinned post on Facebook. I have also attached a list of websites that pupils can use over the next number of weeks so they can continue their learning. I would stress the need to be realistic with our expectations as to what pupils can do each day. We do not expect pupils to work like it is a full school day. There are lots of resources to keep pupils busy but we are also mindful that every family situation is different. There will undoubtedly be teething problems as we move school study to the home environment. If you cannot access our online platform, please email [dmcclelland787@c2kni.net](mailto:dmcclelland787@c2kni.net) and we will be more than happy to help.

### **Examinations**

Examination pupils are undoubtedly anxious at this time. It is clear that there will be no GCSE or A' Level examinations this year. However, the Department of Education and all examination bodies are working collectively to come up with solutions to ensure all our learners receive grades that will be reflective of all our pupils hard work thus far. If any pupils

have any concerns regarding UCAS or student finance, Mrs Woods will be available through email [info@edmundricecollege.co.uk](mailto:info@edmundricecollege.co.uk). Further information on examinations will follow in due course.

### **Contact**

Our school office will be open for telephone calls on Monday, Wednesday and Friday each week between 9am to 12 noon. If you request any information from a specific teacher, please email [info@edmundricecollege.co.uk](mailto:info@edmundricecollege.co.uk) and this can be forwarded to the relevant member of staff. Staff remain working and will respond where appropriate.

Finally, I leave you with a very important request. Yesterday, I streamed 11am Mass in St Bernard's for my family. The message from the Gospel was to 'open your eyes' to what is going on around you. Can I appeal to all our pupils to protect themselves and their families by staying at home to save lives.

I look forward to seeing you all soon. In the meantime, take care of yourselves and each other.

Take care and God bless,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'P Berne', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

P Berne  
Acting Principal

### **ADDITIONAL WEBSITES FOR ONLINE LEARNING**

There are a number of other websites that we would recommend, if you cannot access Google Classroom or fancy something different:

#### **BBC BITESIZE**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

This has access to all our subjects and plenty of videos and quizzes to keep our pupils learning.

#### **HEGARTY MATHS**

This is our go to website for Maths and the work will be marked online. All passwords have been reset so login with the school name, first name, surname and your date of birth. Then choose your own password. Please read the feedback provided by your teacher. It appears as a bell symbol on the toolbar. If it is red then you have an unread message.

There are additional worksheets to complete in your exercise book.

<https://hegartymaths.com/login/learner>

#### **LEARNING BY QUESTIONS**

Mr McCay is working really hard to keep all our Scientists active. There will be daily quizzes on this website. Today's code is **tap** to access the quizzes for Years 8-10. Let's get a bit of competition going

<https://www.lbq.org/Task>

#### **READING**

We love to read in Edmund Rice College. Please encourage your children to read daily. Audible are offering free access to thousands books while schools are off- Enjoy!

<https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>

#### **KHAN ACADEMY**

They are providing free daily lessons on sign up. A great way to keep our pupils learning at home.

<https://www.khanacademy.org/>

#### **ARTFUL PARENT**

Let's show our creative side with this website. Pupils in ERC love their creative subjects. This website gives them the opportunity to continue with that

<https://artfulparent.com/>

**We think we have you covered for everything! Should you require anything else please email**

[info@edmundricecollege.co.uk](mailto:info@edmundricecollege.co.uk)