



ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE

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Principal: Dr M Knox B.A.(Hons) PGCE M.A. PhD PQH (N.I.)

7th January 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

Remote Learning and Examinations Update

I hope that you and your family are all well, and that you have all had a restful Christmas break.

As you will be aware, the Minister for Education has issued revised guidance in relation to school opening and examinations over the past few days:

- There will now be remote learning for ALL Year Groups in schools until the February half-term. **This means that all Year Groups remain at home until Monday 22nd February.** This return date will potentially be subject to change depending on the circumstances in relation to the spread of Covid-19 at that time.
- All of this year's GCSE and A Level exams scheduled from this point forward – including those scheduled to take place next week – have now been cancelled. CCEA will be issuing instructions to schools within the next few weeks about how grades are to be arrived at. When we have this information, we will share it with you. **However, as it is extremely likely that grades will be based on the evidence of work completed, it is very important that ALL students in Years 11 to 14 complete all tasks set in this coming period of remote learning to the very best of their ability.**
- At this point, BTEC and Cambridge Technical examinations have NOT been cancelled, and schools have not yet received any guidance on what will be happening with these qualifications. Therefore, students who are following these courses should continue to work on completing all assignments that have been set by their teachers.
- For Years 9 to 14, work will be set using Google Classroom and MyMaths. **Students should ensure that they are able to log on and that their passwords are working.** If a student needs to reset their password, they can do this themselves by logging onto http://www.c2kni.net/c2k_services.html and clicking on the 'Change Your Password' link. Alternatively, we can deal with C2k support issues, and we can be contacted as follows:
 - Monday and Tuesday: Mr McGuckin pmcguckin906@c2kni.net
 - Wednesday: Mr Canavan ncanavan524@c2kni.net
 - Thursday: Mr Lowe plowe079@c2kni.net
 - Friday: Mr Fitzpatrick pfitzpatrick867@c2kni.net
- Students can address queries about their individual subject areas to their teachers, who can be messaged via their Google Classrooms.
- More general queries – whether of an academic or pastoral nature – either from parents or students can be addressed to the school email address info@stpatricks.ballymena.ni.sch.uk and will then be forwarded to the relevant staff member, who will make contact with you. In addition, either myself, Mrs Harkins or Mr Fitzpatrick will be in school each day and can be contacted by telephone.
- Schools are required to provide supervised learning to vulnerable children and the children of keyworkers, and the school will be open from 9.00am to 3.00pm each day for this purpose, starting from next Monday, 11th January. We have already asked keyworkers and the parents of vulnerable children to make contact with us if they require supervised learning for their child. If your family is in either of these categories, we would ask for safeguarding reasons that you make contact with us (via info@stpatricks.ballymena.ni.sch.uk) in advance of accessing supervised learning. Please note that students accessing supervised learning will not be taught; they will be completing under supervision the tasks set remotely by their class teachers.

We appreciate your support and co-operation in this fast-changing situation, and we will continue to keep you updated with information as it comes to us.

Yours faithfully

Dr M Knox
Principal