

19-10-20 @ 6.30 PM



**RE; Confirmed Covid-19 cases in the School**

**Tarbert Comprehensive School**

Dear Parents & Guardians,

It is with great disappointment that I write to you this evening to inform you that I have made a decision to close the school to students effective immediately.

This decision was not made lightly and is based on my growing concern with regard to a number of issues that have emerged over the past few days, namely;

- The need to protect the entire School community and their families from Covid -19
- An alarming increase in the number of positive cases in the West Limerick and North Kerry region
- A failure by some to inform the school authority that members of their families had tested Covid positive – while at the same time informing others

All of this means that from tomorrow, members of the teaching and SNA staff will link with all year groups and commence online teaching – similar to that last March, April & May. Teachers will continue to come to School and will largely send out work according to their timetable. This form of tuition will use a variety of approaches from pre-recorded demonstrations to live video classes, emailed notes and work etc. This will all operate through the student Gmail accounts. I expect all able students to log in at 9 am and finish at 3.50 pm – just as if they were at school.

I realise there may be some students who wish to collect copies and text books etc. I am asking students to use the digital books (junior cycle) if possible and only contact the school with a view to collecting material if it is absolutely necessary.

The School will close for mid-term break as planned this Friday evening whereby online tuition will cease. School will re-open (in keeping with national guidelines at the time) on Monday November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020.

I am still asking all parents to link with the School in the event that a student tests positive for Covid in the coming days - this is to ensure that appropriate contact tracing procedures are put in place and everyone is protected.

Finally I want to thank most sincerely everyone who has kept our School open to date – from the staff and students to the HSE for their steadfast assistance to date.

In the meantime, online tuition will now engage and I will see students again on November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020.

Kind Regards

**Mr Richard Prendiville, PRINCIPAL**

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