

12/3/20



RE: Emergency School Closure

Tarbert Comprehensive School

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you are aware the government has ordered the closure of all schools until at least March 29th 2020. This date may be extended. I want to reassure you that the School has contingency arrangements put in place to continue distance teaching and learning with our students.

Today – all year groups have been met at assemblies and shown how our Google online learning platform operates. They have also been instructed to use their email account on a daily basis for all learning. While technology cannot replace teacher contact fully – it is nonetheless a powerful tool we can use to continue teaching and learning in this scenario.

I have asked the teaching staff to link with your child on a variety of media via the student email – depending on the subject, content and age profile of your child. Staff may be using online tutorials, pre-recorded videos, emails, online notes, revision, online homework/assignments etc. etc. I can assure you that your child will not fall behind on work.

As regards exam classes, I am particularly conscious that there may be stresses and anxieties associated with this forced closure. There is no need. The State Examinations Commission will communicate with me in the near future as regards orals, practical's etc. and I will pass this on to students.

To summarise, I am asking all parents to:

- Download the School App (if not already done) – this and the School website www.tarbertcomprehensive.ie are the main forms of communication. Essential messages only will be sent by text
- All students have their email log in details (despite what some may tell you – don't listen to excuses!)
- Emails will go from staff daily and teachers will largely work to the existing timetable (available on VShare)
- All JC students have access to their books online via their email (directions for use have been resent today – again accept no excuses)
- All Senior students (including LCA) can collect any material or books they require from the School tomorrow Friday March 13th 2020 from 9.30 am until 12.30 pm – please arrive individually and not in groups if needed. No projects can be removed from the School at this time.

Ultimately all communication with your child will now be done via email as regards teaching and learning. It is the first port of call. While this is not an ideal scenario – it is nonetheless manageable and we will make effort to continue teaching and learning to the highest standard.

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PRINCIPAL

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