

Dear parent / guardian

Thank you for supporting the learning of your son / daughter at this unique and challenging time. It is almost two weeks now since the College was forced to close but lessons have been continuing remotely through a variety of virtual learning platforms and communication mechanisms. If you need to be reminded as to how any of this works please just log onto the College web site and follow the response to COVID 19 that appears in the centre of the screen. This will lead you to both general and specific information about our approach to on-line and distance learning. There are a series of 'How to' guides in case your young person is struggling to access any of the software and there is an examination board update and news feed where we have sought to keep you up to date with developments.

As far as possible the government is seeking to ensure that students are awarded their qualifications this year but we are still waiting for more details; particularly for practical trades and areas where the qualification is a recognised licence to work in the particular sector. On the whole awards will be granted on the basis of teacher assessed work and any examinations or assessments taken earlier in the year. It therefore remains imperative for this year's results as well as next year's progression for students to remain engaged in their studies.

With this in mind we have decided to maintain the usual Easter School study period. This will take place, still remotely, on Monday 6th April to Wednesday 8th April inclusively. During this time teachers will be supporting students who may be a little behind in their work and need to quite urgently finish particular assignments as well as those wishing to stretch and challenge themselves to achieve higher grades. Recognising that with the current restrictions in place Easter holidays may not look as an exciting prospect as usual teachers will also be setting some fun, subject based challenges perhaps requiring some research and creative thinking and production of something, a podcast for example, to share with peers after the break. We do hope that we can rely on your continuing support in ensuring students remain engaged in learning.

Formal on line learning will recommence according to timetables on Monday 20th April which is the first day of the summer term.

Wishing you, your family and friends the very best of health in these challenging times