

20th April 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope you and your family are all safe and well and that you got to enjoy the Easter break despite the restrictions.

I would like to acknowledge the ongoing work of our students and teachers in dealing with the unique and challenging circumstances we are presented with at this time in such a positive and productive manner. There are challenges for everyone – students and teachers – but everyone working together to preserve the continuity of education currently is extremely important for all.

We have no further information on a return to school date beyond May 5th at the time of writing.

Regarding summer assessments, I would like to take this opportunity to let all students and parents know that, whether or not we are returning to school before the end of the academic year, assessments and reports for all students will be going ahead at the end of term three. How this might look is to be decided when we know more about the school closures. In the meantime, it is very important that students continue to engage with online learning in preparation for your end of year tests.

Individual Circumstances

The school would like to let you know that we are aware of a very small number of students whose current circumstances make learning remotely difficult at the moment.

If there is anything that the school should know (from sickness to any individual circumstances) please do consider emailing info@colaistecoissiuire.ie to communicate this. Anything you share with us will be treated in confidence.

Supporting Student Engagement with Remote Teaching and Learning

Before Easter we learned that the vast majority of our students were very actively engaged with their online classes.

In the three weeks before Easter, in supporting student engagement with remote teaching and learning, we found the following:

- Students who kept a good routine (got up at the same time each morning, got a good night's sleep and took care of the physical and mental wellbeing) managed reasonably well with remote teaching and learning



- Students who found a quiet desk-like space in their home and did their best to manage distractions during school time found it easier to keep up with their learning
- Students with difficulties navigating Teams asked their teachers for help and also contacted friends for support
- Students who wrote their classwork and homework into their student diary found it easier to keep track of the work and meet deadlines
- Students who followed their daily school timetable to complete work managed to check-in to every subject's Team in order to gather classwork and homework and managed assignment deadlines more efficiently
- Students with individual circumstances (e.g. babysitting for siblings) perhaps did their school work in the evening or night time but still used their daily school timetable to ensure no subject was forgotten

Parents/Guardians can help their child(ren) by reminding them of the above.

Teachers are using VSWare to record your child(ren)'s merits and demerits in lieu of the student diary. We would ask parents to check VSWare at the end of each week at a minimum to monitor this in lieu of signing the student diary weekly.

Thank you for your ongoing support for your child(ren)'s education in these new and challenging times.

Easter Work

As you will know the Minister for Education advised all students to take a complete break for the second week of our Easter holidays. As teachers had set meaningful coursework for third and sixth years, many teachers have adjusted the deadlines of this work so that it is completed accordingly this week instead.

Contacting the school

If parents/guardians need to contact the school please email info@colaistecoissiuire.ie and your query will be forwarded to the relevant person.

Please be mindful that, no doubt like for many of our families, broadband access is not as reliable for staff working from home, so there may be a delay in replying to your emails.

I hope that your family are well and staying safe currently.

Sincerely,

Conor Power

Principal