

8th January, 2021.

Dear Parent/Guardian,

It is with regret that I write to you once again regarding a return to Remote Teaching & Learning. It is, and always will be, our preference to have your sons with us in the school, but alas that is not safe at this time.

In terms of Remote Teaching & Learning we have been preparing for this since our return to school in September and we are now in a better place than we were last March. Continuous professional development has occurred for our teachers and our students have been practicing their use of Google Classroom, which is our learning platform. We are confident that we can provide a meaningful learning experience for your sons from next Monday onwards. Please note however that, as with anything, the best laid plans can produce challenges, but we will be on standby to deal with them if they occur.

Attached is our **Remote Teaching & Learning Policy**, which outlines the expectations of teachers, students & parents. **Please read this thoroughly & carefully.** The entire staff 'met' this morning remotely to review our plans and teachers are now busy preparing for Monday. The plans are as follows:

- A Google Classroom has been set up for each Year group. School Management & Wellbeing teams will communicate with the students via this platform. All students have been invited to join so it is important that you check with your son that he has joined and therefore he will then have regular access to all the information he needs.
- Subject teachers will communicate with their students through their own Google Classroom. Initially students may feel overwhelmed at the amount of messages they get but please assure them that each teacher will let them know the plans for their subject for the week.
- Students should follow their school timetable and log into their relevant Google Classroom at the scheduled time as if they were in school. When they do, their teacher will either stream live, post a recorded class or post assignments for them to complete during that class period. All teachers will do live classes at intervals during the week. Attendance will be taken at these classes and we will be monitoring student engagement.
- We are very cognisant of the fact that there will be households that are sharing devices and therefore all live classes will also be recorded and uploaded on Google Classroom for review by the student or viewing at a different time. We advise that students work according to their timetable in as much as they can.
- Students can now access Google Classroom through Xbox & PS4. Instructions are on our Twitter feed and we will post them on VShare & our website also. This may make it easier for some to access learning.
- We will continue to provide our Wellbeing programme throughout the shut down. Students will not have live RE, SPHE, CSPE or PE classes but activities will be posted once a week for them to participate in.
- Next week school management will hold live assemblies for each year group and students will be notified of this through their google classroom.

- Please note that teachers are also at home, many with small children and are trying to juggle their personal circumstance and their professional responsibilities. Please be kind and understanding as they are trying their best in difficult circumstances.
- If a student is ill and is not going to be available for a number of days parents should ring the school office and leave a message for the relevant Year Head.
- We are aware that there may be broadband issues for some people and this is not something we can solve. We appreciate you are also doing your best. If this is an issue for you please let us know and we can pass it on to the teachers so they are aware.
- **6th Years:** Once again speculation has started about the Leaving Cert. Please encourage your son to ignore this and take every day as it comes and engage with his teachers as best he can. He should continue to work hard, as whichever way the Leaving Cert falls this work will be counted. On **Tuesday 12th January, Supergeneration** will be holding a **Study Skills programme** for our **6th Year** group from **9:30-11:45**. A zoom link will be uploaded on the Google classroom along with a soft copy of a booklet that they should print off if they can. This is an excellent presentation and one that all 6th years should attend as the school has paid for it and we would like you to get the benefit from it. Teachers are aware that this is happening so there won't be classes at this time. There are a number of subject teachers who wish to give portfolios, books, workbooks or copies back to students and the school will be open on Tuesday afternoon to allow collection from the GP area. Teachers will let classes know if they are leaving things there for you to collect. Students should come in the front door and exit through the Art Room door to ensure social distancing.
- **3rd Years:** As with 6th Yrs, I don't feel that it is helpful to speculate how the Junior Cert will unfold. One way or another students will be certified and rewarded for the work they do either through the State Exams Commission (as is the plan) or by a school certificate. Please encourage your sons to engage fully with his teachers and his learning in order to continue on his educational journey. On **Tuesday 12th January, Supergeneration** will be holding a **Study Skills programme** for our **3rd Years 1:45-3:45**. A zoom link will be uploaded on the Google Classroom along with a soft copy of a booklet that they should print off if they can. This is an excellent presentation and one that all 3rd yrs should attend as the school has paid for it and we would like you to get the benefit of it. Teachers are aware that this is happening so there won't be classes at this time.
- SEN support will continue to take place and the SEN teachers will be in touch with their students next week. I would note that in some cases SEN takes place on a one to one basis. If this is the case on a Google Meet, parents should ensure that their son leave the door open or be in a public area of the house. Staff have been instructed to do the same. This is for Child Protection purposes as well as protection of both student & teacher/ Special Needs Assistant.

Once again, if any student has an issue with logging onto Google Classroom please email [studentsupport@cbshighschoolclonmel.ie](mailto:studentsupport@cbshighschoolclonmel.ie). If any parent has an issue with logging onto VSware please contact the school office between 10-12 am weekdays when the phone will be manned.

Please feel free to email the school if you have any queries and we will continue to keep open lines of communication with you to ensure the best Teaching & Learning can take place for your son in difficult circumstances.

Stay safe and stay at home if you can and let's work towards getting our students back to where they belong.

Yours sincerely,

Karen Steenson, Seamus Ryan & Olivia Corcoran.