



A.M.D.G.

**CRESCENT COLLEGE COMPREHENSIVE S.J.**

**DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK V94 W6W8**

25 March 2020

Dear students and parents,

It seems ages since we've been together as a community, though actually only eight school days since the closure! Time has taken on a different rhythm and momentum. We are being asked to work remotely and to keep a distance from all but family members living at home, and from friends. This is no easy task, and quite challenging for many. Teachers in many cases are working from homes where childcare or illness might be a distraction or indeed a significant drain on one's attention and energy; students are similarly asked to work in less than ideal conditions and without the camaraderie of school friends to get them through the day; so again I ask all to be patient and to be mindful of these constraints.

I wish to congratulate our students on the engagement and cooperation you are showing with new online teaching models. I applaud you and your parents and guardians who are supporting you with your schoolwork.

Following yesterday's announcement that schools will not reopen until 20 April at the earliest, I wish to remind you that our ICT technician is available to assist with any ICT issue you might experience. I encourage you to use 'Teams' for the remainder of this term. As a school we are improving our arrangements each day, and each week as we adapt to new norms. Please let any member of the senior management team know if there is anything else, we can do to support you. Some classes will be required to do revision over the Easter holidays, but I remind you that it will be just as important that you take a break and arrange a different, more relaxed regime over the Easter holidays if at all possible.

I will continue to update you as matters develop however, we may not hear any more about state exams or a return to school until the week after Easter Sunday. In the interest of public health, we are being asked to stay at home, not meet friends or members of our extended family. This is challenging for adults, so it is only to be expected that young people may struggle with what is being requested of them. As students and parents, and staff members in a Jesuit school we can show our solidarity with our fellow man by doing what is expected of us, for the greater good. If we stick to the advice we've been given, regarding social distancing, hand-washing, respiratory etiquette and working from home we can significantly cut down on the numbers of people who will be affected by the COVID 19 virus, and consequently the demands on our hospitals and health care workers.

I wish you good health and remind you to stay safe.

Best regards,

**KARIN**