



HOLY FAMILY SECONDARY SCHOOL

Newbridge, Co. Kildare W12 YD71

Under the patronage of the Catholic Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin

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Principal: Ms S. Allen Deputy Principal: Ms K. Aherne Deputy Principal: Ms K. Kissane

Dear HFSS community,

29th January 2021

We hope that you and your families are all safe and well? We would again like to congratulate our students for their level of engagement with their learning and to commend our teaching staff for the quality of their online tuition at the end of Week 3 of Remote School 2021. Many teachers are reporting excellent participation and attendance in online classes. We are incredibly proud of our students and their resilience. All of our students have improved their digital literacy skills and these transferable skills will serve them well in the future.

Thank you again to our parents and guardians for their continued support in these altered school days.

Department of Education remote school update: Please find attached a letter received today.

Remote school is to continue for the foreseeable future.

"As you are aware, the Government has made a decision on foot of public health advice to extend the level 5 restriction measures in place to suppress the spread of Covid-19, and as part of these measures to continue this phase of school closure at present. This decision has been made in the context of wishing to avoid the movement of the full one-million strong school-going population daily. The closure of schools will be kept under ongoing review by Government".

Further information:

The websites with all of the information to follow are;

<https://www.education.ie/en/> Department of Education DES

<https://www.examinations.ie/> State Exams Commission SEC

We also want to remind you that our school support services and school counsellors are available if anyone would like support. Please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Year Groups:

Our 6th years have been very actively engaged with the Guidance department for the past few weeks making choices for 3rd level and future career options. Reminder that **Monday 1st February at 5.15pm** is the deadline for those students applying to CAO. We would like to commend our **6th year students** for their continued hard work and dedication to the studies.

Currently, mock examinations for 6th Year students have been rescheduled for a minimum notice date of 2 weeks after we return to in-school classes. All of this planning is hugely subject to DES/SEC dates and other variables. The Leaving Certificate year mock exams are a very important process that will help students complete their focused coursework and get as much important feedback as possible to improve until June. They are also essential in helping to prepare for the length and experience of the state exams. The mocks timetable that we create, tries as much as possible to replicate the Leaving Certificate experience. As it stands we are still working toward the Leaving Certificate in June because we have not been given any instruction otherwise.

Please note that we continue to await advice from the DES and SEC in relation to the Leaving Certificate examinations, Oral and Practical examinations and deadlines for Portfolio work. As soon as we receive any update we will be in touch with you immediately.

Well done to our **5th Year students** for their commitment and engagement with the Senior Cycle Programme to date. We ask them to continue to engage and work hard with teachers to ensure that this time next year they can reap the rewards of your strong work ethic this year. **Our 5th Year Parent Teacher Report has been postponed until a future date.**

Transition Year students are again working hard with our TY Programme. They have also been exploring and achieving certificates in various online courses. The Senior Cycle Options Form will be live on Teams after the **Parents Information Evening for Senior Cycle Subject Options on Monday, 1st February at 7pm (on Teams)** The form has to be submitted by **Thursday, 4th at 12 noon.**

Our **Third Year Junior Cycle students** are actively participating in their online lessons and we are so encouraged by their wonderful work and consistency. We are currently awaiting an update on the Junior Cycle examinations and we will bring you the information as soon as it becomes available.

We wish the **Second Year students** the very best of luck as they begin to engage with their Classroom Based Assessments over the coming weeks and we thank them for their ongoing engagement with their learning. **Our 2nd Year Parent Teacher Report has been postponed until a future date.**

We are very proud of our **First Year students** for the way in which they have engaged with Microsoft Teams and remote Teaching and Learning. We appreciate that this has been a very steep learning curve for all of you and we want to thank you for your hard work. **Our 1st Year Parent Teacher Report has been postponed until a future date.**

This week we celebrated **Catholic Schools Week**. Please click on this link for a short video message from Bishop Denis to all students for Catholic School's Week.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Lleg7gdoqVaPzRJgBi8eTknfLyV-e53S/view>

Whole school Wellbeing Day: It is also very important that we look after our mental wellbeing and encourage a positive attitude to living a healthy life. Therefore, we have scheduled activities for **Monday, 8th February** for a whole school Wellbeing Day. There will be guest speakers for our students on stress management and coping with the challenges that they may be facing. On this day, all HFSS teachers will be attending a Department of Education mandatory training day for the continued roll out of the new Junior Cycle.

HFSS School Plan 2021-2026: We are sending a separate app message with the link inviting parent(s)/guardian(s) to participate in a survey as part of our consultation process for our new school plan.

With warmest regards,

S. Allen, Principal

K. Aherne, Deputy Principal

K. Kissane, Deputy Principal