



Dear Tuismitheoirí/Guardians,

Earlier this morning An Taoiseach announced that all schools, colleges and child care facilities are to close by 6pm this evening, March 12th. This closure will continue, he continued, until March 29th when a review will take place.

Since that statement the Coláiste na hInse Clann has been putting our plan in place to facilitate the safe continuation of the school day, the retrieval of materials by daltaí and the communication of our supports for the coming days to all education partners. This includes keeping the school open until 6pm this evening to support parents and daltaí making additional trips to the school to collect materials and books.

We are very conscious that this extended break interrupts the normal teaching and learning of students during a busy time of the school year. In particular we are aware of the additional strain and worry this places on our Leaving Certificate and Junior Cycle students. We have contacted the State Examinations' Commission (SEC) who operate the state exams and as of yet they have no definitive plan for their continuation. Once this is communicated with us, we will inform all daltaí immediately.

Minister McHugh's statement this morning included the following:

"In order to minimise the impact on teaching and learning, all schools will be asked to continue to plan lessons and, where possible, provide online resources for students or online lessons where schools are equipped to do so. Schools are asked to be conscious of students that may not have access to online facilities and to consider this actively in their response."

Teachers in CNI use a wide variety of online and technological resources. We have advised them to use student emails to communicate access to any of these supports. Exam classes will be prioritised in the coming days, and in line with Minister McHugh's statement, teaching and learning will continue where possible and taking into account students' resources.

During this time our primary modes of communication will be through our school website (www.colaiستنahinse.ie) and student email addresses. We will also endeavour to update the school twitter account (@CNIOfficial) too.

The preventative measures taken by us as a community during this new phase will ensure the safety of those around us. Education will continue. Look after each other. Stay safe. And wash those hands!

Le Meas

Anne Marie McCarrick