

Coláiste na hInse



15th January 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to our 2nd weekly Remote home/school briefing. We are going to continue these briefings throughout school closure in order to keep everyone as well informed as possible in this fast-changing situation we find ourselves in.

Firstly, well done to all múinteoirí and daltaí on a very successful first week of remote teaching and learning. An analysis of online activity this week has shown that 89% of first years, 90% of 2nd years, 93% of 3rd years, 88% of IB, 86% of 5th years and 88% of 6th years successfully engaged with online lessons this week. We very much hope to see this continuing and indeed improving as daltaí and múinteoirí settle into this new way of working.

Some general advice for our daltaí to make remote learning a little easier.

- Each morning get up in plenty of time for your school day - have a shower, get dressed, have breakfast and check your timetable so that you have all your books and materials ready for class.
- Don't come to school in pyjamas!
- Try to make your home school environment as easy to work in as possible. Sit at the kitchen table or in a quiet space in the house. If you are using your bedroom, make your bed and if possible, set yourself up with a table and chair.
- Use your cinn lae as normal for recording any homework or assignments that you have been given.
- Eat something and sos and lón time and try to get outside for a few minutes in the fresh air.

Secondly, unfortunately a very small number of daltaí disrupted lessons this week. They did this by joining live lessons of which they are not part, posting inappropriate comments in the lesson chat facility, making distracting noises or posting inappropriate content into the lesson from outside sources e.g. tic tok. Such behaviour is totally against what is expected and outlined in our Online Teaching and Learning Acceptable Use Policy and is being dealt with accordingly. Please be aware that live lessons can and are being recorded to track such instances of misbehaviour. To prevent a reoccurrence of such behaviours we would ask that students:

- Participate fully and respectfully in all online lessons.
- Do not share your school email or password with anyone.
- Do not post information about online lessons on other platforms e.g. snapchat etc.

Thirdly, we have a tracking system in place in the school for the monitoring of students' attendance and engagement and classroom discipline. All teachers have access to two password protected documents. If a child is not engaging for online lessons, teachers are requested to flag this with the school and a member of staff will be in touch with a view to solving any issues the student may be having. In terms of the monitoring of good online classroom discipline, any issues are either dealt with directly by the class teacher or when necessary referred onto the student's Realtóir (year head), a deputy principal or principal.

Fourthly, as an additional support for students the school has purchased an online Studyclix licence for all daltaí. In total 1000 licences were purchased. Analysis shows that presently 872 students have activated their licence.

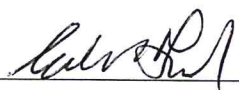
The school has a unique code for access to this – KL7F7P. This is an excellent online resource giving dátaí access to past exam papers, sample answers, notes and much more.

The remainder of this briefing concerns 3rd and 6th year dátaí only:

1. In relation to mock examinations. All mock examination papers are ready to proceed here in the school. Our intention (unless we are directed otherwise by the DoES), is to run mock examination for 3rd and 6th year students two weeks after the school reopens. We have not been told that there will be no state examinations this year and are therefore seeking to prepare students for these examinations. If state examinations do not go-ahead mock examinations will provide the school with additional objective data towards calculated grades.
2. We have been given no additional information from the State Exams Commission in relation to oral examinations. I will forward this as soon as it arrives in the school.
3. There are two types of coursework completed at JC and LC.
 - a. Category 1 course work - are projects that are done that don't require specialist equipment e.g. geography, history, politics and society, agricultural science, economics and LCVP. Teachers have an oversight role here, meaning that that they must sign off on the work, authenticating it as the student's own work. This project work can be continued at home. Teachers will be checking in with students during school closure in relation to this. The deadlines for this work are after Easter and have not been extended at this time.
 - b. Category 2 coursework – are projects that are done in specialist rooms in school e.g. woodwork, metalwork, DCG. Extended deadlines have been given for all of these, which will be kept under review (when we have clarity regarding the length of school closure). **The only deadline that we need to be mindful of in this category at the minute is the deadline for DCG. The original deadline for this was today 15th January. This deadline has been changed to 8 days after schools reopen.**
4. Normally leaving certificate candidates are entered by the school on a E7 form. This year students will be entering themselves on an online data entry portal. Details of this have not yet been released. The school will be assisting dátaí with this process. Junior cycle dátaí will be entered by the school as normal on form E8.
5. RACE applications deadline (for dátaí applying for reasonable accommodations e.g. a special centre, reader or a scribe) have been extended until 26th February 2021. The school will be in contact with any dáta to whom this applies in the coming weeks.
6. LCA dátaí should be continuing with work on their key assignments and TASKS. Teachers will be working on these remotely with both 5th and 6th years while the school is closed. The deadline for tasks was extended until 1st February but will be extended further (date to be confirmed).

If parents, guardians or dátaí have any further questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact the school office on colaistenahinse@lmetb.ie

Is Mise Le Meas,



Eilís Flood