

Coláiste na hInse



Friday 29th January 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to our 4th end of week briefing.

The Department of Education and skills released a letter today, saying that schools would not be reopening on Monday but not saying when they will open. The letter reiterates Government priority of getting students attending special classes back to school but does not specify when. It explains that talks are ongoing. There is no new information regarding state exams or mock exams.

I would like to commend the 410 daltaí who took the time to complete our whole school remote teaching and learning survey. Teachers had a meeting today to discuss what daltaí said in the survey and come up with school wide solutions based on these views.

Survey results were in the main very positive and daltaí were appreciative of the hard work their teachers were putting in. I have grouped student comments under four headings.

1. Homework: daltaí felt they were getting too much homework on top of sitting all day in online lessons. Teachers agreed the following actions:
 - Reduction in homework set
 - No homework in non-exam classes
 - Time allowed in live lessons to do homework and other activities
 - Targeted study for 6th years rather than written homework
2. Length of lessons: Daltaí felt that lessons were too long, especially if teacher spoke for duration. Teachers agreed to the following actions:
 - Lessons shortened, especially for junior classes.
 - Teachers not to talk for full hour but to punctuate with activities to keep students interested and on task
 - Divide lesson into (a) review, (b) new and (c) do – meaning look over work of last lesson, introduce new content and complete student-centred activity
 - Extend breaks and lunch time by 10 minutes to allow students eat and take exercise
3. Allowing student to interact. Teachers agreed to the following actions.
 - Use of break-out rooms so that students can talk among and learn from each other.
 - Teacher to spend time in lessons talking to students about how they are getting on, helping to problem solve.
4. Mental health and wellbeing. Teachers agreed to the following actions.
 - Be more aware of the pressure students are under
 - Wellness Wednesday – next Wednesday – no academic work this coming Wednesday. Instead fun activities, exercise challenges and talk. 6th years free to take the day as a personal study day if preferred.
 - New competition – match the staff baby photos with the adult one – prizes to be won! Look out for emails from Iníon Harte!!
 - Iníon Harte will be sending on details of how to submit sons for the wonderful song writing competition.

Is Mise Le Meas,

Eilís Flood