



13 March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: planning ahead in the light of the Coronavirus pandemic

As you are aware, there is an ongoing outbreak of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) with confirmed cases in multiple countries worldwide, 20 confirmed cases in Northern Ireland. The risk of contracting the Coronavirus in Ireland is low to moderate. However, the situation is being monitored on a daily basis and we will keep an eye to developments and keep you informed through the usual channels, our school website, school Facebook page and our text messaging service.

The health, safety and well-being of all of our pupils, staff and visitors to the school is of paramount importance. To date, we have followed all the advice and guidance provided by the Department of Education, the Public Health Agency (PHA) and the Chief Medical Officer.

In order to minimise risk to the school community the main recommendation from the PHA is to wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds in soap and water. Those who have a cough should follow the guidance – ‘Catch it, kill it, bin it’ to reduce the transmission of germs.

School will operate as normal until I have been told otherwise by the authorities. However, we have had to put the following precautionary measures in place until further notice:

- All educational trips/visits will be postponed
- All sporting fixtures outside school will be postponed
- Events/Guest speakers, etc. arranged inside the school will continue as planned but will not involve pupils from other schools

I can confirm that there are no cases of the Coronavirus to date in St Colm’s High School. In the event of any individuals in St Colm’s presenting with symptoms, that may even remotely resemble the Coronavirus, we will follow all recommended PHA protocols. All measures taken by St Colm’s High School at this point in time remain purely precautionary and we will continue to follow official advice and guidance at all times.

If your son/daughter is unwell, please do not send them into school and if you believe they are displaying the symptoms of the Coronavirus, please follow the advice of self-isolation and contact your GP/PHA for further advice and guidance. Please contact the school immediately if your daughter or a family member is diagnosed with Coronavirus to enable us to respond appropriately.

We ask that you continue to promote full attendance with your daughter and remind you that the School is only closed for the St. Patrick’s Day holiday on Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th March 2020.

Principal: **Mr A. Walsh BEd, PQH**

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To ensure students do not face any academic disadvantage due to potential disruption caused by the Coronavirus, all Heads of Department and teachers have been planning in advance. As such we have placed resources for each year group in **Microsoft Teams**. This App can be downloaded from the Play Store or App Store. An email will be sent to pupils for additional help if the need arises. Students will have to log in with their C2k email address and password using the EN format. (E.g. awalsh971@c2ken.net). Then enter the code relating to your child's year group to access the resources. .

Codes for Learning Resources:

Year 8	kogn7s0
Year 9	hsisnyw
Year 10	wuo5rmy
Year 11	jrrqc8r
Year 12	w9ibi4f
Year 13	n1a9w3i
Year 14	da1ZF51

The examination Board CCEA have issued the following statement re: Potential disruption to exam series: *We all hope that the exam series will run smoothly this year. However, we recognise that schools may have concerns about the possible impact of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) on the 2020 summer exam series. We routinely consider whether there are particular risks to the smooth running of exams, and we are considering this along with other examination boards, the Examinations Regulators and the Department of Education. In the meantime, your students should continue to prepare for the summer exams as usual.*

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Yours sincerely



Adrian Walsh
Principal