



21<sup>st</sup> April 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope that this letter finds you and all your family and friends well in these very strange times. Easter 2020 is surely one that none of us will forget for many reasons, but, thankfully, the weather has aided these unusual times, long may it last.

May I on behalf of the school pass on my condolences and those of the entire school community in PSS Wexford to those members of our wider community who have lost family members or friends over the last few weeks. Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who have lost loved ones recently. Go bhfanfaidh siad i suaimhneas.

As Principal here, I am acutely aware that both students and staff are missing the school environment, the collegiality, the friendships, the laughter, and the interactions. We are currently in a new normal for now, how long that will last is anyone's guess. I am so proud of all the work that both our students and teachers and indeed parents have been doing over the course of Remote Learning, please keep this engagement up over the course of the next few weeks.

We are now on the last term of the academic school year; we have in total 6 weeks during this term. I ask that students engage as much as they can with remote learning for these 6 weeks, and I ask Parents/Guardians to encourage their daughters to do so. Please do not for any reason let their education slip.

We are also introducing a very simple Remote Learning Report for each week, which will be accessible to Parents/Guardians at the end of each week it will go live each Sunday. The report will simply state if your daughter has been Engaged in Remote Learning – Yes, Partially, No. Please note that this is not a mandatory report for our staff to complete. Some of our teachers will be completing a Remote Learning Report at the end of each week. Not all our teachers may have the time to complete these reports, because, like so many other people, students & parents included, teachers too are very busy juggling their own lives. Minding small children, home-schooling their own children, or minding family members. So please be aware that not all our teachers will get a chance every week to complete these reports.

On the issue of remote learning and access to the internet or broadband or any other issues could I ask that if your daughter is having any issues in relation to anything please let us know. Could I remind you to inform your daughters of the following:

- If they are having issues with broadband or Wi-Fi speed or connectivity can they please out of courtesy email their teachers and let them know.
- Some of their teachers broadband connection gets faster in the evening times, and some have asked me is it okay if they send work for example on Tuesday evening for the Wednesday class etc. this does NOT mean that students have to do that work at the time sent on the Tuesday.



It is for the assigned time the following day it is because teachers may have to send it when the broadband/ internet connection is faster.

- Please remind them to fully read their emails and instructions that their teachers are sending for the work assigned.

I would ask all of our parents/guardians to ensure that their daughters are engaged on Microsoft Teams, or Edmodo or whatever educational platform that their teachers may be using and that they are doing the work assigned to them by their teachers in all subjects.

To the parents of 3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> years I draw your attention to the documents below this letter on our Covid 19 webpage at <https://www.preswex.ie/coronavirus-covid-19/>

The following documents:

- Statement from the Minister
- Postponement of State Exams
- Full Press Release from the Minister
- FAQ's regarding the postponement of the state exams
- Specific Information for Students in 6th Year and 3rd Year & their Parents

The main points are as follows:

- The Leaving Certificate has been postponed to late July/early August and we will be working with our students and our parents to ensure that your daughter gets the support that she needs and will be thoroughly prepared for these exams.
- For Junior Certificate students it is also important to note that Junior Certificate examinations have NOT been cancelled but postponed to September. The proposed exams are to take place in school in September and will take the same format as the JC state exams. This is still unclear, as to who will correct them, who will supervise them etc
- Certification for the JC is unclear yet. However, students will receive their JCPA as normal.
- The Minister has stated for example that LC students take June off, I would be of the assumption that JC take the three months off. But, again uncertain.
- The Department of Education and Skills and the State Examinations Commission are making every effort to support all students through this challenging time.
- Students facing examinations have been asked to keep focused and to keep working in preparation for the exams.
- More details will be forthcoming soon regarding both the Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate examinations and we will bring this information to your attention without delay by text and by our website page.



# PRESENTATION SECONDARY SCHOOL

*Educating the Students of Wexford Since 1818*

*"Our Best Always"*



As a school community we are all here to support you in whatever way that we can, the Senior Leadership team, our Year Heads & Tutors, Student Support Team, Special Education Team, Guidance Counsellors, and individual teachers for all of our students now and in the weeks ahead. PSS, Wexford like all schools will always support our students through these times and for these changes to state exams. As for the new school year, again, like other Principal's throughout the country I await further instruction. We will follow best practice guidelines set out by the National Public Health Emergency Team, the HSE, the Government, and other departments, We were closed due to medical advice and we will only reopen under the correct medical advice from the National Public Health Emergency Team.

All of us at the school are working as hard as we can to ensure that your daughters education, welfare and wellbeing are catered for, we will continue to keep the excellent structures that we have in place remotely over the next few weeks, with remote team meetings. Making sure that our students are doing okay.

You will be updated as things change and news situations arise, on our website above, by text, or follow us on twitter, Instagram, and Facebook.

I assure you of the continued support of our school Leadership team, Year Heads, Guidance Counsellors, SEN team and individual teachers for all our students now and in the weeks ahead. As always, please be assured that we are working as hard as we can to ensure continuity of quality education and systems of support for our students.

I wish each one of you all every best wish as we continue to chart our way through these unknown waters. Please look after each other & stay safe.

Yours Sincerely,

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William Ryan