



St Columb's College


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 StColumbsCollegeDerry

 @ColumbCollege

5th January 2021

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s)/Carer(s)

It seems strange to be wishing you a 'Happy New Year' in the current circumstances, but as I said in my Christmas Facebook message, the two blessings that I wish for every member of this community for 2021 are peace and hope. Indeed, at present hope is something that we very much need to hold on to.

As you are aware, it is looking very likely that the decision will be taken to extend remote learning for most pupils for longer than was initially planned. Hopefully we will know more shortly, but I wanted to provide you with some initial guidance as to what we are planning. Please be aware, though, that the situation at the minute is very fluid and our plans may have to be adapted in the light of future announcements or unforeseen developments.

Later today we will be publishing two documents on our school App – one outlining how **remote learning** will work and the other related to **supervised learning for children of key workers and vulnerable children**. **Please read both documents carefully.**

As you will see from the document on remote learning, we are requesting that our pupils endeavour to follow their normal timetable from 9.25 a.m. until 3.30 p.m. each day. We are fully aware of the importance of keeping a structure in a day that might otherwise quickly lose that structure. For that reason we are expecting our **#collegeboys** to be ready to engage with their lessons as they would if they were physically present in the classroom. We will be asking staff to take their class registers as usual and would ask you to inform us of any reasons for an 'absence' - as you normally would.

To facilitate the smooth operation of remote learning, please use support@stcolumbscollege.org for any queries that may arise. When using this email address, please specify your son's name and class along with his C2K username (with the ending @c2ken.net [e.g. jdoherty123@c2ken.net] along with details of the issue).

For those who do not have internet access, please let us know via our support@stcolumbscollege.org email address – or by contacting the school on 02871 285000. We will do our best to provide materials to support learning for those pupils.

Your continued co-operation and support throughout this next period is greatly appreciated and we would ask that any communication between staff, students and parents is respectful, appropriate and considerate - and is limited to school hours. Please remember, there *will* be challenges ahead, but by working together we *will* be able to overcome them.

Please also note, in the likelihood of staff having to self-isolate, there may be periods of online inactivity and we would ask for your patience should that be the case. In any case, most pupils can access resources which are available in **C2K Shared Resources** and we would encourage them



to work independently in such situations. Pupils can also avail of excellent resources such as BBC Bitesize website.

Important school updates will continue to be sent to parent(s)/guardian(s)/carer(s) via the school App. **Please ensure that you have installed the school app on your device.** Instructions for installing the App are available on the school website (www.stcolumbs.com).

I fully appreciate this is a very anxious time for parents, students and staff and I assure you that the well-being of our whole school community will remain absolutely central to all that we do. During this period of likely closure, our Pastoral teams will work to maintain a level of contact with families.

I will be in contact with you again when I have further information about the announcements that are likely to be made over the coming hours and days.

Yours faithfully

FJM Madden
Principal