

Parents & Guardians Update – Friday 17th April 2020

Dear Parents & Guardians,

We hope all are still well within our community and at a certain level getting used to working, living and being with and without each other in different circumstances and settings.

We are starting our third term this Monday. We sincerely thank our students who have engaged with the on-line teaching whether through email or our Microsoft office 365 teams. All our teachers will be back teaching this week and again we ask any parent or student who may have challenges with this work to please let us know and we will do our best to support you as soon as possible. We will ask our teachers to work to the timetable as best they can and also to keep a record of students who are engaging with the classes and work.

As a school we firmly believe that students should remain engaged and should continue to work. It is a different, and for a lot of students, a difficult way of working, but we believe this will ultimately stand to our students, not only educationally but in their own personal responsibility for self-directed learning.

Whilst a lot of emphasis has rightly been put on the exam year groups, we are also concerned for all our students, 1st, 2nd TYs and 5th year students included. It is imperative that they also keep up with their course work and keep in contact with their teachers.

We thank all our students for their 5th year subject options. We have started work on our timetable for next year in the anticipation of schools re-opening in August /September.

Our Sports Day and Parents Association BBQ, Golf Classic, awards ceremonies and graduations are postponed until further notice.

Junior and Leaving Certificate exams.

We thank the Department of Education for the announcement during the Easter holidays regarding the state exams. As of yet we do not have information as to what format both the Junior and Leaving Certificate exams will take. Once we have this information, we will share this with all our exam students. In the meantime, we encourage all our 6th and 3rd year students to keep working, engage with all your subjects and stay focused. We appreciate that it is very difficult to prepare for a formal set of exams when we do not know all the details. However, the curriculum is still the same and the course work will not change. We are proud of our academic standards and we believe in the talent, discipline and work ethic of our students. With regards to the Debs, the Parent's Association Committee have confirmed that the Debs will still take place on 28th August – if this needs to be rescheduled due to the scheduling of the Leaving Certificate exams this will be organised.

Guidance & Counselling Support

Ms. Harris and Ms. Dolan have posted guidelines on our website detailing how they are available for guidance support for our students. If you have any queries, please email MHarris@Salesianscelbridge.com or DDolan@Salesianscelbridge.com for information. Our

school Chaplain, Fr. Jesmond is also available for support. Please email Japap@Salesianscelbridge.com for information.

Uniform Sale & Booklists & School Calendar

This year we will take all orders for jumpers and ties on-line through our online Easypayments electronic payments system. We will let you know when orders can be placed. In advance of this we ask all parents to check that they can still log on to their account. Any queries please send an email and I will forward it to our school Bursar.

As in other years we will publish the book lists for 2020-2021 in June along with the Book grant application form.

We will publish the calendar for 2020-2021 when confirmed with the Department of Education and Skills.

Student & Medical Information updates

During this time, we would appreciate if parents and guardians would please contact the school in writing with any updates for our VS Ware system and also any updates on medical conditions. We will make arrangements at another time for parents and guardians of students who have left medical products such as Epi-pens to come to the school to collect them.

Contact

As School Principal I have kept the Board of Management up to date and also communicated with the Parents Association, and I thank them for their support

We thank all parents who have sent queries and suggestions to us at office@salesianscelbridge.com. Please keep in touch.

I strongly believe in the school motto of “We care, we develop, we believe – together we achieve”.

More than ever in our teaching experience and in our lives have we been asked to show we care by staying at home. We can continue to develop our own skills by working on-line. We have to believe and also lead by example with our students that we can teach and learn in different ways so that we can achieve the educational and personal goals we value as a school. We are an excellent school and I know despite all the uncertainty we will come out of this in a strong, confident and competent position.

Go n-éirí linn

Ms.BKearns, Principal

Message from the Salesian Community

Easter has arrived and around the College campus nature is finding its voice again. The cherry blossoms are in full bloom with the blackthorn in the hedges, the pitches are green again, rabbits are everywhere practicing their burrowing, and the place is alive to the sound of bird song. Winter, as it always does, has come to an end.

As the Salesian community we also, however, notice the quietness of the place, the closed school building, the empty playground and the silent school bell.

There is a different type of learning happening in these days. We are learning about the fragility of our lives. We are learning about the depth of our resolve. We are learning about our profound community spirit and, in a real way, we are learning about how we need and depend on each other. We have come to realize that our true strength is our strength to carry the weak, and our true dignity is our capacity to value every person.

We concluded our Don Bosco's day Mass in the School last January with a song from the Musical '*Dear Evan Hansen*'. (Still on the School Facebook page). Its words may offer some encouragement and perspective for the challenges we are facing at these times:

Even when the dark comes crashin' through

When you need a friend to carry you

And when you're broken on the ground

You will be found

So let the sun come streamin' in

'Cause you'll reach up and you'll rise again

Lift your head and look around

You will be found

As a community we Salesians gather in prayer each day and we pray with and for all of you. We pray for those heroes on the front line and for those heroes who are at home keeping family and daily life going. We remember especially those who have lost their lives at this time and the family and friends that grief their parting. On the first Easter Sunday morning the tomb was empty because death had been conquered.

May this time of Easter be a time of blessing and of prayer for each other. In the words of Pope Francis "prayer always changes reality...: it either changes things or changes our hearts, but it always changes" (Papal Audience, 9 Jan 2019).

Salesian Community, Celbridge