

15th October 2020

Dear S1 – S4 Parents/ Guardians

I last wrote to you on the 11th September at which time I commended our students for their co-operation with all our new rules and procedures. Our students have continued to be positive and supportive of the various procedures that we have had to put in place. They have also taken with good grace, instructions to self-isolate and have engaged well with online learning and teaching.

These are very strange and challenging times, but our students have met the challenges presented. I would like to thank them for their co-operation and good example. The Staff of the College are very appreciative of the responsible attitude that the students have demonstrated.

I know that there have also been challenges for you. I would like to thank you for your good humour and support despite these challenges. I would also like to specifically thank you for your understanding when you have been called to the school at short notice, when we have had to send students home as a result of contact tracing. The encouragement that you have given to the staff of the College has been greatly appreciated and made difficult circumstances much easier to manage.

We have now been instructed by Minister Weir to extend our Halloween holidays by one week. As a result, the College will be closed from **Monday 19th to Friday 30th October** inclusive.

While no online teaching will take place during this time, I would like to emphasise that during holiday periods, there is an expectation that students, most particularly senior students, would spend time on homework, study and revision.

The next two weeks therefore gives our senior students time to:-

- study and revise topics which have been taught in class and which otherwise would be considered to have been completed
- complete and organise their notes and files
- complete outstanding work and assignments
- review specifications and identify what has been taught and what has yet to be taught
- know what they know in each subject and know what they do not know!
- complete past paper questions
- review online resources
- revise for modules
- talk online with classmates to clarify understanding of topics and themes
- condense notes into short revision points.
- set out timetables of revision
- work ahead with new topics.

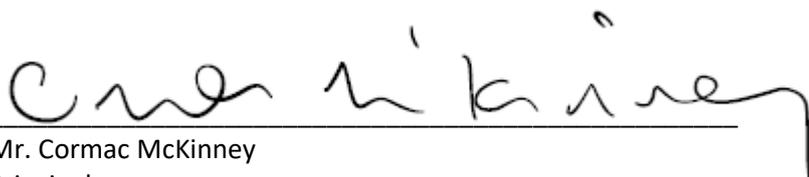
I have attached to this correspondence, communication from Minister Weir for S1 – S4 students, parents/ guardians. We will continue to keep you informed as and when information in relation to examinations becomes available.

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In the meantime, could I ask you to ensure that you download and register for **Sims Parent App**. This is our main means of communication. If there are any issues with **Sims Parent App** please contact Miss McSorley cmcsorley207@c2kni.net either on Friday 16th October or from Monday 2nd November. Information is also posted on our school app, St Colman's College along with direct communication through **Groupcall**. It is very important that if any of your contact details have changed you must contact Mrs Josephine McGrath at the College Reception as soon as possible.

Thank you for continued co-operation and support. We will continue to keep you informed of future developments, as and when they arise. In the meantime I hope you have a good Halloween break. Stay safe.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Cormac McKinney". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Mr. Cormac McKinney
Principal