



16th April 2020

KILLINA PRESENTATION SECONDARY SCHOOL

Rahan, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.

To Killina Presentation third year students,

First and foremost I hope that you and your families are well and remain so. I am writing to you in these unprecedented times to offer my support, empathy and understanding.

As the Easter holidays draw to an end, you would have been expecting to be returning to school for your last few weeks of school term. Your lives and the world has been interrupted by the outbreak of COVID19. From the school perspective this has meant huge changes as to how schools operate and how the State Examinations are to be undertaken.

Many of the details of how your Junior Certificate/ Cycle assessments will take place has to yet be finalised. So for now, other than the Ministerial announcement, I have no further details to impart. I am asking you not to despair, you are not alone in this. Your school, your teachers and your family are with you. They will be a support to you through this. Your Junior Certificate has been interrupted, assessments have been postponed, not cancelled. Assessments are due to take place during September of next school year.

While none of us have experienced anything like this before, we are all in uncharted waters, it is still my responsibility to offer you some guidance, support and advice.

The current situation is difficult, not what any of us would like. How do we make the best of this situation? Firstly, stay healthy and well, mind yourselves and others, follow Public Health advice and stay at home. Mind your mental health, look for help if you need it and try not to stress over the things that you have no control of. Take breaks from study/ work and take exercise. Secondly, prepare for your exams, you have worked towards them for three years. Continue to engage with your teachers online, make the most of the time you have, use it wisely and put yourself in the best possible position for sitting September assessments.

Remember we all want you to do well in exams, but you need to help yourself by putting in the required work and effort. School has not yet finished for you, there are six weeks left in the current term, up until 29th May. Your school and teachers are available to support you, don't be afraid to look for assistance.

With every good wish,

Ní neart go cur le chéile.

John Cotter
Principal