

Mercy Secondary School Kilbeggan – Letter to Students & Families 8th January 2021



8th January 2021

Dear Students & Families,

We hope that everyone is well and we wish everyone a happy and healthy 2021. The year ahead will pose a number of significant challenges for all of us, due to circumstances beyond our control, but we are confident that we will successfully deal with these challenges in the spirit of co-operation and solidarity that exists between all the school partners here at Mercy Secondary School Kilbeggan. Since we returned in September 2020, we have been humbled and hugely empowered by the quality and extent of the support that we have received from our students and their families. We thank you most sincerely for that.

We now are faced with a return to Online Teaching and Learning for all our students from Tuesday 12th January 2021. Monday 11th January 2021 will be used as a Staff Planning Day as per the original school calendar to prepare for this development. This period of Online Teaching and Learning is at present scheduled to continue up until Friday 29th January 2021, when the Department of Education & Skills (DES) will advise us what approach to take next.

It is therefore imperative that all students observe their school email accounts and log onto their Google Classrooms from 9:00am on Tuesday 12th January 2021. It is through these platforms that teachers will communicate with students, through a mixture of emailed tasks, links, live classes, recorded events, etc. The approaches taken by our teachers will vary depending on their individual style of teaching and the subject involved. The teachers will follow the existing school timetable when prescribing work or delivering live classes. Please ensure that your child follows these instructions and tasks on a daily basis, to ensure that they keep up with the work prescribed. We understand that this is not an ideal system due to a number of issues, but we will have to make the best of it to ensure that teaching and learning continues. There will be moments of exasperation, but it is critical that we all do the best that we can in these circumstances.

Finally, there is no change to the Junior Certificate or Leaving Certificate Examinations at this time of writing. We will inform you immediately in this regard if we are informed of anything. The Junior and Leaving Cert Mocks are currently postponed indefinitely, and they will not take place at the end of this term as originally planned.

If you have any queries or concerns at any time please contact principal@mercykilbeggan.ie and we will respond to alleviate any concerns that you may have. We hope that everyone stays well and stays healthy.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr Farrell

Ms Gallen