



Monday 30th. March 2020

Dear Parent/ Guardian.

We hope you and your family are keeping safe and coping with the challenges we face and will continue to face for the foreseeable future. These are unprecedented times.

The normal primary function of a school is to educate and facilitate the process of teaching and learning, and while we will continue to carry out this role to the best of our ability during the present crisis, we must remind ourselves that we have been given an even greater role. Schools were closed to help slow down the spread of Coronavirus Covid 19 and for now we must play our part. Our school community including immediate family members is in excess of one thousand people. Together we can and must play our part in what is a national emergency. Every single one of us has an enormous responsibility to play our part in what is the only issue of real importance for our country and our people.

We must all do absolutely everything we can to follow the guidelines that are widely publicised. We can slow down the spread of this virus and in doing so save lives. Nothing is more important. We must all take strength from knowing that as fellow human-beings we are playing our part and in time we can be proud of how we behaved and conducted ourselves.

In relation to the school, we ask you to be patient and wait (as we must ourselves) for further advice and guidance. We follow the advice we get from the experts in the H.S.E., the Dept of Education and the State Exams Commission. These are the experts, we trust them and we will follow their advice. For now we know that schools will remain closed until April the 19th and there is little value in speculating what may happen after that. We await further instructions

In relation to students preparing for state exams, we want to reassure you that we are in the safe hands of the State Exams Commission. The commission have always put the interests of the students first, and have always tried to ensure that no student is disadvantaged. In time, the commission will make the appropriate decisions in relation to the state exams. Until then we will continue to prepare as best we can for these exams. There is no point in second guessing what may happen, we will leave that decision to the experts.

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As a school community we have endeavoured to continue our role as educators through platforms such as google classroom, zoom classes etc. and we will continue to do this as long as the closure persists. We would ask you here to ensure that your son's continue to engage with our teachers through these platforms.

This is an evolving situation and we will continue to keep you fully informed. We would ask you to monitor our website www.mountsioncbssecondary.ie for updates.

Finally, we again remind ourselves of the vital role we play in this crisis. Please take care of yourself and each other.

Kind regards,

Edward Kennedy and Bill Doherty.