

While An Taoiseach's announcement of school closure on Thursday last was not unforeseeable, it was sudden. Nevertheless the teaching staff here at St Augustine's had already started to put contingency plans in place to ensure the academic progress of our students would not be jeopardised while the school is closed. Social media platforms such as "Edmodo", "Google Classroom" "Zoom" and "Email" allow teachers to continue to provide guidance to their students in their specific subject areas. It is important therefore that parents and guardians encourage students to "log on" daily in order to receive instructions from their teachers. Priority will be given to students in exam years. Together we can ensure that teaching and learning continues for our students.

It is my understanding that the State Examinations Commission is putting a contingency plan in place regarding Orals and other State Exam related projects. As soon as we receive information on this we will let you know. We thank you for your cooperation in this matter. I also wish to acknowledge the commitment and professionalism of the teaching and administrative staff to the academic welfare of all our students.

At this stage, schools are due to reopen on Monday, March 30th. I encourage you to follow the HSE guidelines for your health and safety at this time and that you keep in your thoughts and prayers those who have been directly affected by COVID-19 not forgetting our dedicated healthcare workers who are at the coalface of this pandemic.

“Hope has two beautiful daughters—their names are Anger and Courage; Anger at the way things are, and Courage to see that they do not remain the way they are” St Augustine

Take care.

Yours faithfully,

Michael O'Sullivan (Principal)