



19/04/2020

Dear Parents/ Guardians/ Students,

I hope you've had a safe and happy Easter Break.

There are still many uncertainties regarding dates for this year's State Examinations, the most up-to-date information, as you know is that exams are scheduled for late July/early August subject to advice from the National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHET).

As Parents/Guardians and Students it is important at this time to be aware that school is continuing but requires engagement from students to be successful. Great work is being done by our teachers to connect with their students to ensure the best learning outcomes for them. While circumstances are challenging for all concerned I urge all students to engage with their teachers on the various teaching platforms.

The Junior Cycle final examinations due to take place in June will be replaced by school-based exams and assessments held early in the new school year. While the formal Junior Examinations have been cancelled, it is important for Junior Cert. students to be mindful that an assessment will take place in the Autumn. Therefore it's essential that

engagement with your teachers continues as normal. Remember your teachers are there to offer guidance and support as you prepare for Senior Cycle.

I wish to advise all students that assessment based reports will be going out at the end of this academic year as usual.

The new Leaving Certificate exam timetable will be confirmed in early June.

All decisions being taken in relation to rescheduling exams are based on current (NPHE) advice which puts the best interests of students and their families first.

Unfortunately, we are living in a time of great uncertainty, which I appreciate is difficult and frustrating for all of us. I want to take this opportunity to reassure you that I will keep you up to date with developments regarding exams and assessments for both our Leaving and Junior Cert students. Be assured that we at St Augustine's are here to help and support you in whatever way we can.. We are all individuals and, as such approach and handle things differently. That's what makes us unique and that's what makes us strong.

Remember that you are all in this together, all 60,000 doing the Leaving Certificate exams. Most of you will be having the same concerns and upsets. You have a lot of support, your teachers, guidance counsellor, school management team, family and friends. Ask for support if you need it and stay connected and keep in touch with one another.

As parents it is a difficult time personally and professionally. I don't know what advice to give you here except that you know yourself and your family best. Normality is no longer the norm.

From my own experience I would suggest you try to find the right time to offer support and encouragement thereby avoiding unnecessary conflict.. Encourage regular breaks, exercise, healthy eating and sleep routines. Bring some fun into daily routines. Perhaps most importantly, give them space. Believe me this will help you also.

“In time of test, family is best.”

To those of you working in frontline services we thank you once again for your dedication and care in keeping us safe and ensuring that important services remain open.

“The ultimate test of man's conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will not be heard.”

Remember only to use reliable and trustworthy news sources. If you want information and updates on education and the Leaving Certificate use the Department of Education and Skills website.

Kind regards and stay safe

Michael Sullivan