22 January 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope that you and your family are keeping safe and well.

As we finish off another week of productive online work, I sincerely thank you for the support and encouragement you have given to your child(ren) in their learning this week. There has been a vast uptake in pupil engagement and pupil responses are very impressive. The work which all pupils are completing is extremely important and for Exam Year Groups, it is essential that they continue to work hard so that they are well prepared for whatever form of assessment process lies ahead with regard to Exam grade outcomes.

I wish to congratulate Year 11 Double Award and Year 12 Single Award GCSE Science pupils who achieved fantastic results yesterday following Exams completed in November 2020. Despite all the interruptions, challenges, and limited face to face teaching, they excelled in their grade outcomes. Both the Science Department and pupils deserve the highest praise and commendation. Well done everybody!

Congratulations to our Maths Pupils of the Week. Cassie, Neve, Katerina, Abbie, Mark, Jack, Carey and Ema have worked extremely hard all week and are deserving of this recognition. Well done to your teachers too in challenging you to go that little step further. We will continue to promote our pupil work via a range of different mediums.

Our Virtual Open Evening video was screened last night on the College Website and Facebook page. We are absolutely delighted with so many positive responses to date. I hope you will continue to promote our wonderful pupils, staff and school to all Primary 7 prospective pupils and parents/guardians. Holy Trinity College is indeed a school in the heart of the community.

We appreciate there are many challenges to remote learning, and which impacts not only on our young people but also on you as parents/guardians. As school staff, we also experience these challenges on a daily basis, juggling work commitments with home schooling and looking after family. It is important that we as adults, safeguard our mental health and well-being, in order to do the same for our young people.

* Be realistic about how you manage your day
* Provide structure for your family
* Make adjustments where needed
* Reach out to others
* Do the best you can every day
* Be kind to yourself

Whilst there is no online learning today, staff are busy preparing resources, hosting Parent Teacher phone calls for Years 12, 13 and 14, answering queries from prospective parents and, as we have done every day this week, cooking a hot meal for our Nurture pupils via the Fareshare Initiative. There is always something different happening every day in Holy Trinity College.

Remote learning resumes again on Monday 25th January, with a mix of online and offline tasks, activities, research and interactive teaching. Pupils should be up early, dressed, and ready to learn for the day ahead commencing with Registration at 8.45am. Please note that pupils should always log onto Google Classroom using their C2k email address and observe the following:

* Work quietly in an area where there are no distractions.
* Be respectful and polite at all times when online.
* Do not share passwords / teacher names / confidential information online.
* Have all your equipment ready – pens, pencils, books and so on.
* The teacher will lead each lesson and will control all access to the lesson.
* Use the ‘Raise your hand’ or ‘chat’ facility if you need to ask a question whilst on Google Meets.
* The recording of / taking screenshots of any part of a lesson or staff / pupils is forbidden.
* Leave promptly when the lesson is over.
* Teachers will be available during timetabled lessons to address subject queries, but thereafter, they will be marking work, preparing resources and looking after their family, so we appreciate your patience whilst you await an email response from them.

Catholic Schools Week commences on Sunday 24th January until 31st January. The Theme this year is ***Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith and Resilience*** and which is evident via our thoughts, words and actions. We will provide more information on this next week.

If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the College on 028 8676 2420 or email info@holytrinityc.cookstown.ni.sch.uk.

Please continue to take care and look after yourselves.

Yours sincerely



**Isabel Russell
Principal**