Friday 3 April 2020

Hello Everyone

I hope that you are keeping well and have adapted to your new routines and structures at home. Indeed, I am delighted that so many of you have been able to adapt to the new online learning platforms and I appreciate you logging on daily to Google Classroom / Google Drive / Fronter to complete the work assigned by your teachers online. I simply ask you to always try your best and keep focussed in doing regular work. Don’t worry if you don’t always have access to IT facilities. Use your textbooks/exercise books to engage in independent learning, and reading a novel is certainly to be recommended. Be proud of what you have achieved this week, but remember this is a totally new experience for everyone, so it is important to pace yourself.

I wish to extend my thanks to all staff who have been working hard to provide you with the best possible learning opportunities online, liaising with Exam Boards, administrative procedures, answering technical queries, or providing resources online. They have also had to adjust to new routines and look after their families as well, and I know they will continue to do their very best in these challenging times.

I recognise this is an anxious time for everyone and it is important to take care of our own mental health and well-being. We will continue to update and post relevant information to guide and support you on our Website and Facebook. Parents, if you are concerned about your child and feel that he / she would welcome a conversation with our Pastoral Support Officer, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at info@holytrinityc.cookstown.ni.sch.uk . This will be a confidential service.

As we approach the weekend, take time to relax and refocus. You might want to try out our Saturday timetable and give your parent a rest. Remember, your parent has also had to adapt very quickly – being both a parent and teacher, doing their own job and keeping everyone safe in the family. Pupils, show your parents how mature you are. They will be so proud of you helping out in the garden, cooking, washing or just making them a cup of tea! Embrace it - you will be brilliant at all of these jobs.

Please continue to follow the daily advice with regard to staying at home, wash your hands frequently and keep the 2 metre rule of being socially distant if you have to go outside. Pray the Rosary asking for the guidance and protection of Our Lady. The decision you take today by **staying at home** will save lives tomorrow, the next day, next week and so on. Let us support our front line workers together.

On behalf of Holy Trinity College, I pray everyone remains safe and well, and I thank you for your continued support and understanding at this very difficult time.

God Bless

Isabel Russell
Principal