



Holy Trinity College

9-29 Chapel Street
COOKSTOWN
Co Tyrone
BT80 8QB

Principal: Mrs I Russell BA (Hons) MTD PQH (NI)

A Specialist Sports and English Academy

12 February 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

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

Having completed a full half-term of remote learning, I take this opportunity to thank and congratulate everyone for the support provided to our pupils and what they in turn have achieved. Working remotely has its challenges for pupils, staff and parents/guardians alike. There have also been occasions when many pupils have been overwhelmed with the amount of work expected of them. For pupils working remotely at home, we appreciate the high levels of engagement and the incredible work you are producing daily. For those pupils attending school every day, I congratulate you on how well you have adopted to independent work on a daily basis. It concerns me however, that there is a very small minority of pupils not engaging in their subjects. We will continue to contact you and your parent/guardian and address this after the Mid- Term Break. As today is Digital Detox Day, take some time away from your computer screens and mobile phones and use the time to relax, engage in physical activity, and be proud of what you can achieve.

Thank you to our pupils and parents/guardians for taking time to complete our recent survey on **what the College is doing well and how we can improve**. Your opinions are very important to us for future planning. Staff will provide their feedback to me today. Whilst we truly welcome your very positive comments, we will also look at your suggestions as to how we can improve the learning experience for our pupils during the continued school closure. Currently, remote learning will continue until the 5th March. We are so looking forward to our pupils returning to the classroom, and hearing lots of chat and laughter on the corridors again, but that will only happen when Department of Education guidance indicates that it is safe for pupils and staff to return to school.

There has been no further guidance issued from the Examination Boards re Centre Determined Grades for Year 11 – 14 Examinations. The process is different from last year however and **Examination Grades will be based on the work you produce to your teachers during the current school closure and upon our return to school. It is not a predicted grade of what we think you might have achieved, had you sat the Examinations. I cannot stress enough, the importance of all Exam pupils engaging online and submitting high-quality work as requested by their teachers.** If you do not submit high-quality work, you will end up with a lower grade than expected or no grade at all. Parents/Guardians, I ask that you continue to encourage your child(ren) to engage online and complete any outstanding work to date.

In addition to remote learning, we are proud to update you on other areas of provision/support that have occurred during this half-term.

- ✓ Continued Staff Development in the use of learning platforms and in providing online, interactive and pre-recorded lessons.



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- ✓ Classroom Assistants are engaging with and supporting pupils with special educational needs.
- ✓ Pastoral support is ongoing with AM Form Registration every morning.
- ✓ Form Teacher Phonecalls to parents/guardians of Years 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 regarding progress, engagement and support required.
- ✓ Tracking whole school engagement.
- ✓ Pupil health and well-being addressed via Form Teachers, Heads of Year, Heads of Key Stage, or the Pastoral Team which includes the Pastoral Support Officer, Safeguarding Team, Vice Principals and Principal.
- ✓ Chromebooks have been distributed to Years 11 and 13 (previously to Years 12 and 14) and we await additional IT devices for distribution to Year 10, followed by Year 8 and Year 9 at a later date.
- ✓ Excellent GCSE Science Modular Results achieved by pupils in Year 11 and Year 12
- ✓ Hard copy materials of pupil work continues to be available upon request
- ✓ Technical support is available daily
- ✓ Year 10 GCSE Options are complete.
- ✓ Final preparations are underway for Year 12 Options (Post 16). Subject presentations will be placed on the College Website on 25 February.
- ✓ Food Boxes prepared and distributed weekly via Fareshare Initiative, to our school families.
- ✓ Staff cooking a hot meal for Nurture Pupils in Years 8 – 12 on a daily basis, thereby providing social interaction.
- ✓ Virtual Open Evening Video to welcome our Primary 7 pupils to Holy Trinity College

As we look forward to our Mid Term Break (Monday 15th – Friday 19th February inclusive), it is important that all pupils take time to rest, have a break from their studies and refresh themselves. This equally applies to all our families and staff. The College will also be closed to pupils involved in Supervised Learning during the Mid-Term Break. Everyone has worked so hard during this half term, and our pupils and staff are to be commended in their efforts. Well done everyone.

Girls and Boys: ***“Always remember that you’re awesome and there’s no one on the planet like you. NEVER EVER let anyone make you believe otherwise.”***

All staff in Holy Trinity College will continue to do their very best to support each and every pupil. If you have any concerns or require any additional support, please do not hesitate to contact the College on 028 8676 2420 or email info@holytrinityc.cookstown.ni.sch.uk.

Please continue to keep safe and look after yourselves, and thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Isabel Russell

Isabel Russell
Principal