



**OUR
LADY'S
SCHOOL**
TERENURE



March 31st 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope you and your families remain safe and well in the current circumstances. At this National Emergency continues I am heartened by the positive attitude of our community and the strong leadership shown in our country. There are many valuable lessons about the importance of having a positive attitude and the power of leadership for our students to learn from during these times.

The Government's announcement this week that schools will now be closed until at least 20th April means that our students will be continuing with their remote learning digitally.

Students' Survey March 20th and March 27th

We have surveyed both our student and teachers on the last two Fridays to see how each group are doing. It is encouraging to see that both sets are establishing a good routine and are getting used to the new challenges and demands of digital learning.

Initially students found it hard to establish a routine and were struggling with technology and the workload which they found more demanding than usual.

Using feedback from the first week's student survey we asked staff to set fewer assignments as they were taking the students much longer than normal. We also asked staff to clearly structure work assigned including extending deadlines and giving clear instructions about uploading homework. This has helped ease the student workload.

Parental Assistance

As parents you can assist your student at home get into a good work pattern and put a clear structure on their day. We strongly encourage students to be at their desks at 8.30am and to follow their scheduled timetable. Most students, 88% (a large increase from the previous week) reported that they were getting regular breaks and exercise and this needs to be maintained.

If your daughter feels that she is still getting too much work, please encourage her to let the teacher know. It is a learning curve for everyone. Our staff are to be commended on how quickly they got up and running with online classes and on their continuous efforts in upskilling to fulfil the needs of the students.

Remote teaching and learning require greater parental oversight and student responsibility than normal, particularly regarding the etiquette of engaging online and in returning assigned work before deadlines expire. We would ask parents where possible to check in with your daughter and her assignments on Google Classroom and Gmail to see work being set and to check on its completion.

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Exam Students

Examination classes are naturally anxious, but it remains the intention of the Department of Education and the State Exams Commission to run all examinations in June. 3rd and 6th Year students must work now towards these deadlines. It is vital that they only listen to advice and news from official sources and disregard the speculation on social media platforms. Reports for both year groups are available for parents on VSWare with the relevant mock examination results. State examination students should be reflecting on their mock results and reassessing in relation to study plans over the Easter holidays. All 6th Year students have been asked to fill in post mock reflection sheets through Google Classroom.

Check In

Deputy Principals, Year Heads, the SEN Dept, the Guidance teachers and Tutors are checking in with students regularly. We are aware that these can be challenging times for some students and their families. Please see the links below for additional resources that you might find useful at these times. We also have a variety of resources to support remote learning and wellbeing on our website: <https://olschool.ie/documents-2/remoteteaching/> .

- Talking to children and Young People about Covid 19 - Advice for Parents and Schools - <https://www.education.ie/en/The-Department/Announcements/talking-to-children-and-young-people-about-covid-19-coronavirus-advice-for-parents-and-schools.pdf>
- A guide for Parents when supporting children and Young People when schools are closed - <https://www.education.ie/en/The-Department/Announcements/guide-for-parents-supporting-children.pdf>
- Information for students on dealing with Anxiety - <https://www.ncge.ie/sites/default/files/20190704%20WSG-Anxiety-Stress-Student-Resource-Sheet-EN.pdf>
- Finally some information on Anxiety for Parents <https://www.ncge.ie/sites/default/files/20190704%20WSG-Anxiety-Stress-Parent-Resource-Sheet-EN.pdf>

Please rest assured that all of us in OLS are continually striving to provide the best supports we can to our students in these challenging times.

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Principal

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