

12th May 2020

Dear parent/guardian

We hope that you and your family are keeping well as we continue to adjust to our new normality. It is hard to believe that we have reached the middle of May already and that the school year is coming to a close. We are extremely proud of how our students have adapted and engaged with new methods of learning over the past few months. We applaud how they have taken on the challenge of social distancing, which has denied them the person-to-person contact with their peers that we know is so important to this age group. They have shown just how determined, innovative and resilient our young people really are.

With the end of May just a few weeks away students will no doubt be looking for clarity around assessments and reporting.

Progress reports for 1st, 2nd, TY & 5th Years will be issued as normal in June. Along with teachers' comments each student will receive an average grade based on work completed over the year in each subject. Students will not be required to sit the normal summer exams in the last week of May. The following factors have been considered in arriving at this decision.

- Some students have/are experiencing family illness and bereavement
- Not all students have sufficient access to devices
- Many students do not have access to reliable internet
- Some students are responsible for younger siblings/grandparents during the day
- Concern that we do not add to already existing stress for students and their families

Lessons/assignments will continue for all 1st, 2nd, TY & 5th Years via our Office 365/Teams platform until Friday 29th May. Students are encouraged to continue to engage as much as they possibly can over the next few weeks given their own personal situation. If students have not been in a position to engage with a particular subject recently they are encouraged to log-on over the next day or so and complete the current assignment/topic. Alternatively, send the relevant teacher a message through Office 365/Teams. Teachers are more than happy to support and advise students in this position to help ensure that the remaining time is maximised as best suits their individual needs.

We know how challenging the past few months have been for all our students and their families. We thank you for your continued support and cooperation as we adapted to new models of learning and communication. As always, if you feel we can help support your son/daughter in anyway please do not hesitate to let us know via office@presmilltown.ie.

Yours sincerely



Kerry Harkin
Principal