1 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

The Minister for Education announced yesterday thatdue to the deteriorating nature of the epidemic, the risk to the public health and **having considered the advice from the Chief Medical Officer and the Chief Scientific Advisor,** all Post-primary students will be taught remotely during the first week of January. From Monday 11th January, students in years 8 to 11 will continue to be taught remotely until the end of January while students in years 12 to 14 will attend school for face-to-face teaching. The Minister also stated that supervised learning should be available for all *vulnerable children* and *children of key workers.*

Unfortunately, this means that students will not return to school on Wednesday 6th January 2021 as previously planned. This will be a staff development day and all students will be taught online via Google Classroom from Thursday 7th January 2021.

Year 12, 13 and 14 students will return to school on Monday 11th January 2021. The GCSE module exams will continue as planned.

A further update regarding remote learning will be issued by the Heads of Year next Wednesday.

In keeping with the Minister’s announcement, supervised learning will be provided for *vulnerable and key workers’ children*. In order to ensure sufficient supervision, it is vitally important that we know how many children of key workers will be attending school on Thursday 7th January. With this in mind, if you are an identified key worker (see list below) and meet the established criteria, please make contact with the school to inform us of your child’s name, class and how he/she meets the criteria. This must be emailed to myself, [mmchenry767@c2kni.net](mailto:mmchenry767@c2kni.net) by 3.30pm on Monday 4th January so that we can put appropriate supervisory arrangements in place.

**List of Applicable Key Workers**

* Health and Social Care.  This includes doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, home carers and staff required to maintain our health and social care sector;
* Education and childcare.  This includes pre-school and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who will remain active during the Covid-19 response;
* Public safety and national security.  This includes civilians and officers in the police (including key contractors), Fire and Rescue Service, prison service and other national security roles;
* Transport.  This will include those keeping air, water, road and rail transport modes operating during the Covid-19 response;
* Utilities, and Communication.  This includes staff needed for oil, gas, electricity and water (including sewage) and primary industry supplies to continue during the Covid-19 response, as well as key staff in telecommunications, post and delivery, banking and waste disposal;
* Financial Services - This includes staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure);
* Food and other necessary goods.  This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution and sale, as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (e.g. hygiene, medical, etc.);
* Retail. This includes those workers who have been working throughout the pandemic in food retail;
* Other workers essential to delivering key public services such as the National Crime Agency;
* Key national and local government including those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the Covid-19 response.

Parents should only present their child at school on Thursday morning if they have received confirmation from the school that a place is available for their child that day.

Please be assured of our ongoing commitment, care and support. I would like to wish you and your family a safe and blessed New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Miss M McHenry

Principal

