20th April 2020

To our 1st Years,

As our online school re-opens tomorrow, we find ourselves in a strange position.

Last Friday 10th April the Department of Education and Skills made a statement regarding schools. What do we know:

* Schools return to online learning on 20th April
* The current lock-down conditions are in place until May 5th but there is a possibility these will be extended.
* Online Schooling will continue formally for the next six weeks for all students. This takes different formats for different teachers, we all have different subjects and methods, just ***please*** continue to engage online.
* Understandably a lot of focus has been on 3rd Years, Leaving Cert and LCA 2 students, however, it is very important that 1st Years, 2nd Years, 5th Years and LCA 1 students continue to engage with work and covering the subject course. Otherwise it will be very difficult to catch up when school re-opens.
* For the remainder of this term teachers will be monitoring your online engagement on vsware (school admin platform) as a continuation of the positive/negative points system for parents to check and oversee.
* Please note there will be end of year assessments and reports issued by the school early in June.

These are challenging times for everyone and well done to each and every one of you for being so strong, thoughtful and cognisant of others throughout it all. In Scoil Ruáin we often talk about being part of a school community and where “Every Child Matters”. Today we are looking around our communities and we are recognising that “Everyone Matters” especially the members of our community that are most vulnerable and at risk. “Staying Apart is the Best Way to Stay United”. As a school community we will stay United, it is important you keep in touch with each other and with your teachers, whatever format that may take. You lose the classroom, but you now have one to one learning – ask your questions.

**For the next few weeks**

* Plan your day.
* Get the balance right – this might take a few days. Try identifying the times of the day that are best for study for you.
* Nothing replaces good study - taking notes, mind mapping, recording notes, practice questions, whatever works for you.
* Don’t procrastinate and be distracted, you do have control over the work and now the time to do it.
* Don’t use the current crisis as an excuse, see it as an opportunity to really give your best
* Reward yourself and plan your reward
* Include exercise and down time, again you have time and control of this.
* Look after your diet.

We all wish we were back in school tomorrow, but unfortunately this can’t happen, for now we must make the most of this situation and use our time wisely.

**“Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.” – Thomas A. Edison**

Kind regards

Elaine Shine (Year Head)

James Williams (Principal)

Siobhan Landers (Deputy Principal)