



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

5 February 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

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

It has been a busy week for Year 10 pupils in their selection of subjects as GCSE Options when they start Year 11 in September. Today is the deadline for submitting subject choices, so please ensure that this has been completed via Google Classroom Form Class. I hope you enjoyed listening to the Subject presentations on the Website and I also thank those Year 10 pupils and parents who logged on to the Sentinus Motivational Presentation on Tuesday. If you have any further queries with regard to subject choices, please contact the College as soon as possible.

Thank you for taking the time to make and send in brilliant photographs of 'St Brigid's Cross' on Monday. Your designs were lovely and you will be proud to display them in your households.

St Brigid's Blessing:

May Brigid bless the house wherein you dwell; Bless every fireside, every wall and door; Bless every heart that beats beneath its roof; Bless every hand that toils to bring it joy; Bless every foot that walks its portals through; May Brigid bless the house that shelters you.

This is ***Children's Mental Health*** Week. There is so much advice and guidance available with regard to looking after our mental health – of our children and us, as parents and guardians. Being there for each other and talking is absolutely key, but you could also try the following **PACE**:

- ✓ **Physical Activity** – enjoy a walk, run, work-out.
- ✓ **Achieve** – complete that job you have been putting off and gain a sense of satisfaction and achievement.
- ✓ **Connect** – take time to talk to someone even if it is online.
- ✓ **Enjoyment** – do something that you really like and reward yourself afterwards (with a slice of your favourite cake!)

The PE Department are placing lots of information with regard to Health and Wellness guidance and daily work outs on Google Classrooms, so we encourage pupils to log on and get active. Parents/Guardians, you can join in with the activities as well. Please send us in your photographs and videos.

Parents and Guardians, I want to assure you that you are doing a terrific job with your child(ren). Everyone is experiencing difficulties of some sort and every day is different - some good, some bad. We are constantly juggling things around us; working from home and home schooling is difficult. It is not what you are used to doing. You are probably worrying if you are doing enough as a parent/guardian or if your child(ren) is doing enough work. We must also listen to our children.



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They will have good days and bad days. Many pupils are feeling overwhelmed at the moment too. There is no harm in 'taking time out' and restarting a task later in the day or tomorrow, but try to build your time around a schedule. Time is precious with your families right now; we want you to share that time and have happy memories of what you did together as a family. If we can help in any way and support you, we are only at the end of a phonecall. ***"Always end the day with a positive thought. No matter how hard things were, tomorrow's a fresh opportunity to make it better."***

The Minister for Education has announced arrangements for the awarding of Examination Grades in Summer 2021. I have attached a summary of key points below along with a fact sheet for Parents and Students. Additional information has been placed on the College Website www.holytrinitycollege.org.uk with regard to alternative arrangements.

Summary of the arrangements for the awarding of CCEA Qualifications 2021:

- ✓ There are no GCSE, AS or A Level Examinations in Summer 2021.
- ✓ Examination Grades will be based on the professional assessment by Holy Trinity College and quality assured by CCEA.
- ✓ Examination Grades will be determined by the evidenced standard at which a pupil is performing, known as Centre Determined Grades. This may include assessments, coursework, practical work, class tests, essays etc.
- ✓ Pupils are advised to engage with all subject learning as much as possible during the current period of remote learning and upon our return to school. Please contact the school if you are having any difficulties with your work.
- ✓ Occupational Studies and Vocationally Related qualifications will also require professional judgement and evidence to reach a Centre Determined Grade.
- ✓ Year 13 AS and Year 14 A Level students will be issued with Centre Determined Grades in Summer 2021.
- ✓ Year 12 GCSE Students will be awarded Centre Determined Grades in Summer 2021.
- ✓ Year 11 GCSE students will not be awarded Centre Determined Grades in Summer 2021 with the exception of CCEA GCSE Mathematics (Mr Mc Geary's Class). These pupils will complete GCSE Mathematics in 2021 and proceed to GCSE Further Mathematics in September 2021.
- ✓ Year 11 GCSE modular units will not occur in Summer 2021.
- ✓ Further information on the awarding of Exam Grades for Years 11 and 13 in Summer 2022, will be provided by the Education Minister by the end of March 2021.
- ✓ CCEA will issue a Classroom Assessment Resource between April and May. We await further guidance on this Assessment, as it may also be used to inform Centre Determined Grades.
- ✓ The College will receive guidance on the evidence to be gathered in order to ensure that all Centre Determined Grades are fair, objective and consistent.



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With a range of disruptions to pupil learning in the course of this year, it is important that grades awarded are based on the evidence of student work submitted to their teachers, and which will involve pupil knowledge, understanding and skills within subject content. It continues to be an anxious time for all Examination pupils in Years 11 -14 and indeed their parents/guardians, but we encourage you to contact us at any time, should you require clarity on any of the above arrangements. We will continue to keep you updated with regard to all awarding arrangements as they are forwarded to us.

Next week, **Year 10 and Year 11 Form Teachers** will be contacting parents/guardians by telephone to review pupil progress, monitor online engagement and for Year 11, discuss the Christmas Assessment Report. Teachers may be making these telephone calls from a school mobile, so you may see terms such as Caller ID unknown / Private No. on your mobile screens.

Friday 12 February will be a Digital Detox Day. There will be no online learning on this day as we all try to take a break from using the Internet, mobile phones, ipads etc. There will be no supervised learning on this day either, so pupils currently attending school will remain at home. Enjoy a day of physical activity or reading your favourite book.

The **February Mid-Term Break** will occur from Monday 15th – Friday 19th February inclusive, returning to remote learning on Monday 22nd February (Week 2).

I continue to receive feedback from staff on the brilliant work being produced by our pupils. I am so delighted to hear this and so proud of everyone. I equally appreciate the support and encouragement that our parents/guardians are providing to their children. Thank you so much for all your efforts. A short **online survey** with regard to remote learning has been forwarded to Parents/Guardians today. We would appreciate if you could complete the survey to help us understand what we are doing well and how we can make things better. Closing date for receipt is Wednesday 10th February. Pupils will receive their survey on Monday 8th.

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, look after yourselves and thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Isabel Russell

Isabel Russell
Principal