18 March 2020

Dear Parents and Students

The government have just announced that we are required to close for students from **Friday 20th March 2020** until further notice.

Prior to the announcement today, the various recommendations of self-isolation and the prospective widening of these, was making it very difficult to maintain a full teaching programme, although we had been managing. It was also proving difficult for our staff to fully support students who were absent from College due to matters relating to the current emergency.

We are now moving to remote teaching which requires us to put together appropriate learning resources backed by appropriate support strategies. On that basis, we are closing the College to students **with immediate effect**. Students are **not** required to attend College on **Thursday 19th** or **Friday 20th March**. There may be some exceptions to this and we may have to call in some individual or small groups of students and if that is the case, this will be communicated to those concerned directly.

Over the next two days, work packs will be put together, students will be contacted and a remote learning strategy will be put in place that will see us through these challenging times. You will be provided with full details of this by Friday.

I also want to assure you that teaching and support staff will be in regular contact with students and will supply new materials, assess work and support in a wide range of other ways**. Do not think of the College as being closed we have simply gone virtual for a period of time.**

We will work to ensure that education continues and that what has been built over these many months will not be lost. Being physically absent from College does not mean that students are not required to work and develop their skills. I accept that this will be somewhat stilted and at times challenging but that is simply what the current situation sets for us and we have to work with it.

It is our expectation that both staff and students will work with their best endeavours to do the best that they can in these unprecedented times.

Kind regards

Mike Kilbride

Principal