**Parents Update 03/04/20**

To all Parents/Guardians

First and foremost on we would like to sincerely thank all of you for your fantastic support in the last 3 weeks. It has been a seriously challenging time on so many levels but by working together we have achieved so much. Distant learning for secondary school students may not be ideal but all of us have learned an awful lot which will have long term benefits- such as an improved ability to learn independently.

**Student Wellbeing**: Quite a few students are reporting back that they are struggling during these strange and very unusual times and we would encourage you to talk your daughter and see what concerns she may have. Hopefully good routines have been established and ensure she is getting good exercise (within the guidelines obviously) and eating well.

**G-Suite**: As you are well aware at this stage g-suite is the most commonly used platform being used by our teachers to enable teaching and learning from a distance. We are delighted with the engagement by the majority of our students and by the massive effort being made by our teachers to engage and stimulate our students. If your daughter is not engaging you will have received a text message from her Year Head. Aside from g-suite teachers are using many other platforms to best help and teach our students.

**Junior and Leaving Certificate**: There is a lot of speculation around these exams but as of today we are expecting the JC and LC to go ahead as expected in June. This idle speculation is causing a lot of anxiety among our exam classes and we understand their frustration. We urge all our exam students to continue to prepare as best they can in the belief the exams will proceed in June. We know this is not easy and we will support the girls in every way we can.

**Easter Holidays**: Today is the official start of the Easter Holidays and teachers will not be engaging on g-suite for the next 2 weeks- we are sure both the students and their new “teachers” will welcome the break! Non-exam classes are not expected to be doing school work – although they may choose to do so. JC and LC classes have gotten revision work from teachers as they normally would at this time of the year. **So students should not contact their teachers during the Easter unless the teacher has indicated it ok to do so.**

**Contact:** While your daughter may not be able to contact individual teachers during the Easter break you are welcome to contact the office at any time on [office@mercywaterford.com](mailto:office@mercywaterford.com) and we would welcome your contact. You should also follow/like us on our social media for useful tips and general information.

**Your Mobile Phone Number**: Over the 3 weeks parents/guardians have been sent a number of text messages. If you have not received any of these messages please email the office with your mob and we will update the system.

**Return to school date**: The official date of return to school is Monday 20th of April but it is hard to see us returning on that date. It is very difficult to predict but we are hopeful that we will return to school for a few weeks in May at least.

So we hope you have pleasant Easter and that by staying apart we might get back together soon.

Stay safe and stay in touch.

Johnny Brennan

Mary Meade