

Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup>.

Dear Guardian/Parent and Students.

I hope that you all had a nice Easter with your families and that you all remain as healthy and safe as you can be during these difficult times. Hopefully you all have had a chance to relax and that our students are ready to resume school remotely, tomorrow morning. This is a very strange time for us all and you managed all the challenges so well before Easter and you will again over the next few weeks. There are 6 school weeks remaining before June and we will plan with your teachers how best to further structure this for you, so that when school resumes you are ready for it. These are very challenging times but always remember by doing school this way you are all playing your part in helping with this crisis.

I am conscious that for our **6<sup>th</sup> years** this has been a most difficult time for you all with so many unknowns. We do not have any more details than the ones we shared on 10<sup>th</sup> April and are restated below. There has been much consultation and discussion about how best to organise the exams but to date we do not have any more information. You will hear rumours and suggestions on social media and in other media outlets but to date there is no new information. As soon as we hear, we will give you the correct information and see how best to guide you through this unprecedented time. We know that you are anxious for details and this can cause frustration, but keep working towards the exam and as before Easter the teachers will work with you and guide you.

For our **3<sup>rd</sup> years** please do not use this time to switch off. It should be used as an opportunity to catch up on missed work, and prepare for exams that are scheduled to take place in September.

For all of our other year groups, please also use this time as an opportunity to strengthen areas that you may not be strong in and engage with your teachers as they share work with you electronically.

**School Closure: The school will remain closed until further notice.**

**We can be contacted through email: [office@bish.ie](mailto:office@bish.ie)**

*The main points from the ministerial briefing are as follows:*

- 1. Leaving Certificate written examinations postponed until late July/ early August*
- 2. Junior Cycle examinations in June replaced with school-based exams and assessments early in the new school year.*
- 3. The new Leaving Certificate timetable will be confirmed in early June.*
- 4. Leaving Certificate oral language and some Leaving Certificate and Junior Cycle practical performance examinations had been scheduled to take place between 23 March and 3 April. These were cancelled and candidates awarded 100% for these components. The announcement from April 10<sup>th</sup> does not change that position.*
- 5. Practical projects and Course Work –*

*A range of subjects involve these elements: Agricultural Science,, History and Geography, deadline for submission of work will now be immediately prior to the commencement of the written examinations in the late July/August period.*

#### **6. LCVP Link Modules**

*The following will be rescheduled for the late July/August period. LCVP Link modules written examination.*

*In these extraordinary times these are exceptional measures required to ensure the students preparing for this year's State Examinations are afforded every opportunity and has given some more clarity to us all, that we all require. These are very challenging times.*

The Bish is here to support you in any way that we can. As principal, I am here to support you in any way that I can. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to support you. There is no script for what is currently happening, but we will get through this together as a school community. Our professional and dedicated teaching staff will continue to engage with all of our students, 1st to 6th year, as best as they possibly can. I will be in touch with you all again soon.

Finally, some words of advice from John Doran a teacher of wellbeing from our Sister Patrician School in Newbridge:

**"All students and parents, don't forget your SHED during this time. Sleep, Hydration, Exercise and Diet. When we all exercise we will feel better, learn better and think better"**.

Wise words indeed!!

May God bless you and keep us all safe,

Yours sincerely,

John Madden.

Principal