OUR LADY'S
SECONDARY SCHOOL
TEMPLEMORE
CO. TIPPERARY
Eircode: E41 EA48

23rd April 2020

Dear Student and Parent/Guardian,

I hope you and your families are staying safe in the current public health emergency. Over the past few weeks we have been grappling with the sudden and unexpected shift from regular school life to the virtual learning environment. It has been difficult for teachers and students alike. We know that there are many and varied challenges facing students and that circumstances are different for everyone. We will do our best to ensure continuity of learning and support for our students during these challenging times.

Remote Learning

We are thrilled to see so many students logging on to MS Teams classes and submitting work to their teachers. From Monday, 27th April we hope to operate as close as possible to the normal school timetable with a significant number of virtual lessons that students can access remotely. Students who have not already logged on to MS Teams are requested to view the support video clips which have been uploaded to the school website (News/Student Work/MS Teams Support) and to log on using their school email address. We are aware that IT equipment and reliable broadband are not readily available to all students and that this poses a real challenge in the current distance learning environment. We want you to know that we understand these difficulties and recognise that some students are dependent on their mobile phones to access educational material. We remind all students to do their best, that is all that is expected. Your best is always good enough. Please see details of "Increased Supports from Telecoms Providers during Covid 19" at the end of this letter.

Assessment

End of year assessments will take place for 1st, 2nd and 5th Years. The current assessment criteria provides for 100% in the terminal examination. The criteria will be modified to take account of school closure. Detailed revision plans and assessment criteria will issue to students through MS Teams in the coming days.

Second year students are reminded to complete work on their CBAs as the deadlines are looming. TY students have already received details of the assessment criteria from Ms Fogarty (Programme Co-Ordinator). Third year students will receive further information on the Junior Cycle examinations following discussions which are underway with stakeholders at national level.

School Books

Most schoolbook publishing companies are offering free access to eBooks until the end of the school term. Please see details at the end of this letter.

There is no simple solution to the current public health emergency. We are living in uncertain times where the sands are constantly shifting. The key message for students right now is to focus on their studies to the best of their ability. The work they do now will pay good dividends in the new academic year. I urge all students to:

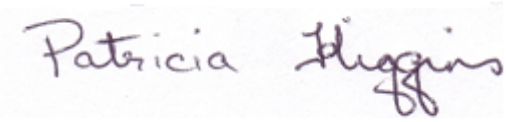
1) Develop and maintain a good study/work routine.
2) Engage to the best of your ability with remote learning.
3) Work with your teachers to complete course work.
4) Take regular breaks and exercise.
5) Stay connected with family and friends.
6) Avoid the constant barrage of negativity in the media and on social media.
7) Rely on trusted sources for information on the Junior Cycle examinations (e.g. Department of Education and Skills website, State Examinations Commission website)

Students are encouraged to contact their subject teachers through MS Teams or on their school email address if they have subject specific queries. Students should also feel free to link in with their yearhead or the guidance counsellor (Ms Boland).

First Year	Ms Boland	guidancecounsellor@ourladystemplemore.ie
Second Year	Ms O Hara	cohara@ourladystemplemore.ie
Third Year	Mr. Burke	mburke@ourladystemplemore.ie
TY	Ms Fogarty	efogarty@ourladystemplemore.ie
Fifth Year	Ms Johnston	amjohnston@ourladystemplemore.ie
Sixth Year	Mr. Fogarty	nfogarty@ourladystemplemore.ie
LCA	Ms Quinlisk	mquinlisk@ourladystemplemore.ie

We will continue to provide information to parents/guardians and students. I wish you all the very best of luck with the final term of the school year 2019/2020. Beannacht Dé oraibh go léir.

Yours sincerely,



Details for some of the Publishing Companies Providing Free Access to Schoolbooks

Educate.ie

To access Educate.ie books please visit Educateplus.ie

CJ Fallons

CJ Fallons are providing FREE ACCESS to its online books until the end of this school term. Click on the link on the home page for access.

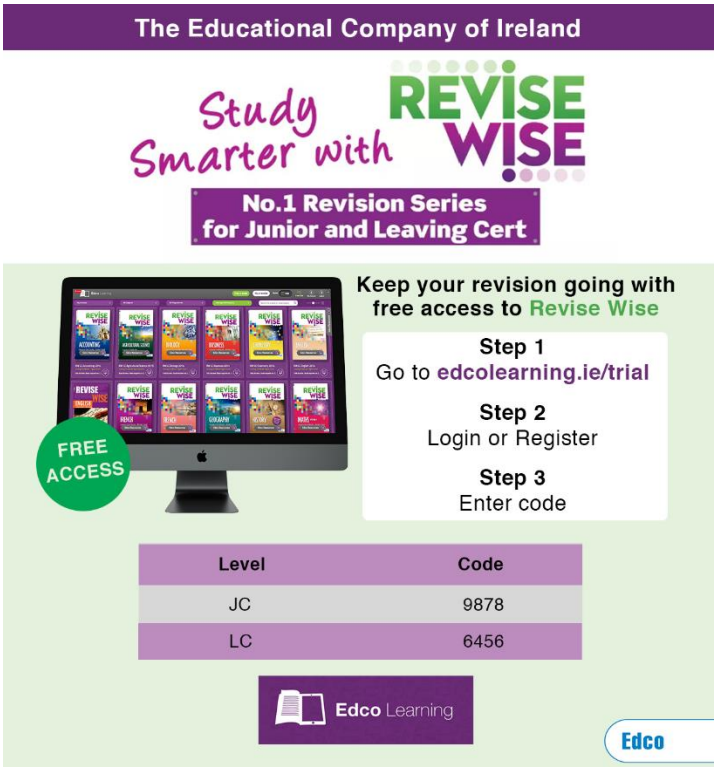
Folens

To lend a helping hand to schools and parents over the coming weeks Folens are giving access to all our digital resources and eBooks on FolensOnline.ie. Parents, students and teachers can follow the steps below to get access:

1. Go to FolensOnline.ie and click register
2. Select Teacher
3. Fill in a username, email and password
4. For Roll Number use the code: Sec20

Education Company of Ireland (Edco)

Free access to schoolbooks is providing by accessing the website landing page.



Increased Supports from Telecoms Providers during Covid 19

The Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment Richard Bruton T.D. announced that all major telecoms providers have committed to a number of measures to help people stay in touch and work/study from home during Covid 19.

The Covid-19 Consumer Commitments are as follows:

1. Any fixed broadband customers who do not have unlimited usage already as standard will be given the opportunity, if they require, to upgrade their package (which may be on a temporary basis), with their current service provider
2. Any customer who does not have fixed broadband and who relies solely on mobile access to the Internet will have the opportunity to avail of affordable unlimited mobile data access/package from their service provider
3. Fair usage policies will not be automatically applied to unlimited fixed and mobile data packages
4. Service providers may implement appropriate permitted traffic management measures to avoid network congestion
5. Access to healthcare and educational resource websites identified by the Government will be zero-rated for all customers where technically feasible.
6. So that customers can remain connected during the crisis, service providers will engage with any customer that contacts them who is in financial difficulty as a result of Covid-19 and has difficulty paying their bills to agree the best way of keeping them connected to voice and data.
7. Service Providers will work with ComReg in the event of complaints raised to ComReg by consumers, who consider they are not being treated in accordance with these commitments.

These commitments will be implemented by operators as soon as possible. Each service provider will provide details and implementation updates on their own website. The commitments will remain available to consumers until 30th June 2020 and will be reviewed in advance of that date if needed.

Customers experiencing issues should contact their service provider in the first instance, before contacting ComReg's Consumer Care Team at consumerline@comreg.ie or 01 8049668 (from 8.00am to 8.00pm Monday to Friday and 9.00am to 1.00pm on Saturday, excluding public holidays.