

Dear Guardian/Parents, Students & Teachers,

I hope this letter finds you well during these unprecedented times. Further to the Government's decision to close schools to support efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19, we are writing to advise you of school continuity measures taken to date by your school

- **Thursday 12-03-2020**
 - We reissued/confirmed all students had their log in details for office 365 if having difficulties please contact info@rockformanor.ie
 - Teachers issued revision guidelines to support students' continued engagement with the curriculum during the closure and advised students of which online learning platform to use for their respective subjects.
 - The school closed following a directive issued by the Department of Education and Skills (DoES).
- **Monday 29-03-2020**
 - Provisional return date to school. In the interim, the school will continue with actions to prepare for our return to the campus.

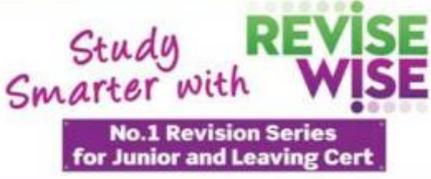
Thursday 19th-03-2020

The following guidance is to support students as they prepare for their summer/state examinations.

- **The State Examinations Commission** (SEC) will circulate guidance on contingency arrangements if they are required.
 - The school will communicate any such arrangements through the school App.
 - All Oral exams at Leaving certificate have been cancelled and all students will automatically receive 100% of their oral grade.
 - If the practical's are postponed for our students, it is essential to note they will be delayed for all students across the country. Please check for accurate updates on the [SEC website](#).
 - In the interim, Leaving Cert students must prepare for the practical's as if they are going to proceed as planned.
- **Examination Years**
 - Our teachers will endeavour to support you as a matter of priority through blended learning (online support & work assigned to you before closure).
 - Generally speaking, online classes will be created via whatever platform your teachers set up prior to the school closure. Your current school timetable provides you with an excellent structure to organise your day. If parents could

encourage their daughter's to submit assigned work, we would be most grateful. Please urge them to do so within agreed timeframes. Other online supports available:

- <https://t.co/ykX2CvCFMs?amp=1> Leaving certificate Resources (5th & 6th) in all subjects



Keep your revision going with free access to Revise Wise

Step 1
Go to edcolearning.ie/trial

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Login or Register

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Level	Code
JC	9878
LC	6456

Simply log in to www.edcolearning.ie/login with any of the following username and password combinations to gain access to our e-books and digital resources.

Level	Username	Password
Primary	primaryedcobooks	edco2020
Junior Cert	jcedcobooks	edco2020
Leaving Cert	lcedcobooks	edco2020

- www.khanacademy.org
- <https://irevise.com/ie> (Additional notes and tutorials)
- www.studyclix.ie (Exam builders)
- www.examinations.ie (Past exam papers and marking schemes)
- www.careersportal.ie
- <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/coronavirus.html>
- www.education.ie – (Education related news)
- [<http://www.educationonair.withgoogle.com> – (For staff)]

- **Non-Examination Years**

- Over time teachers are building their capacity for online engagement, they have issued guidance to students in non-exam years to support their ongoing engagement with the curriculum.
- In addition parents are encouraged to get their daughter's to organise and create a bank of flashcards, mind maps and other suitable study aids.

- **Wellbeing**

- We would encourage you to stay in contact with your friends. Peer learning is one of the most effective methods to support curriculum engagement. Technology used *sensibly* is a great tool to connect and learn together.
- Breaks, exercise and healthy diets are crucial to staying healthy.

- **ICT Support**

- *If you are having difficulty connecting to online teaching and learning platforms established by your teachers please email them to let them know or contact the*

school at info@rockfordmaor.ie. If your daughter is ill and can not do the assigned work please inform the school via the school App as normal.

- **Subject Choice for 2020-2021**

- Our Guidance Department is currently developing subject choice forms digitally via VShare. We will issue a communication to relevant students once it is ready for distribution.
- In the interim, students and parents have access to Careers Portal to support the students' career inquiries.

- **All years – General study guidance**

Please follow study guidelines in your Homework Journals

Other online supports are available here:

- <https://www.scoilnet.ie/scoilnet/news/article/news/detail/News/des-announcement-and-scoilnet-supports/>
- **Special Educational Needs**
- NCSE offices remain open and its staff remain available to provide support to parents and schools in the following ways:
- *For Parents*
- Special Educational Needs Organisers (SENOs) can be contacted for help and support in the usual way. To find out the name of the SENO and their contact details in your area please click here: <https://ncse.ie/regional-services-contact-list>
- Queries relating to services such as Assistive Technology and Transport may also be directed to your local SENO.
- *Online Resources*
- In addition to the normal supports, the NCSE is currently preparing online resources for children with Special Educational Needs who are at home as a result of the schools' closure and these will be made available on the NCSE website in the coming days.

This is an unprecedented situation, and the school community is conscious that in these difficult times, we will come together to find solutions. We always work in the best interest of our students. It is an unusual time for us all, and we need to work together to delay and limit the transmission of the COVID-19 virus. **Social Distancing – Government Message**
All pupils and students, from pre-school to third level are urged to practice social distancing, and to minimise physical contact with each other, to help avoid the spread of Covid-19. This should include minimising social contact, avoiding meeting up and keeping physical space between individuals. Parents and guardians are urged to support their children to maintain this approach.

I also want to acknowledge that many of our students might find the uncertainty of the forthcoming weeks quite unsettling. I want to take this opportunity to reassure parents and students alike that the SEC and DoES have always made decisions which are student-

centred and mindful of the immediate environment. We have no control over what decisions the state agencies make; we do, however, have control over what actions we can take. So please remain focused on your study schedules and your preparations for the state examinations.

Finally, I would like to thank our staff for their assistance and proactive actions to support your daughter's. The staff and your daughter's are a credit to our school community.

If you wish to contact the school, we are available at info@rockfordmanor.ie. We will make every effort to respond to your query promptly and support you in any way we can.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Collison & Ms. Gallagher

Summary of Additional Information for Catholic Schools

Press Release – Wednesday 11 March 2020 - Immediate

Attn: Newsdesks, Photodesks and Religious Affairs Correspondents

Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference statement on liturgical considerations in the context of COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

Serving the common good

As people of faith we are called to face the fears of this moment with a courage not our own and with a generous heart. God is with his people in good times and bad. Like believers in every age we say: 'If I should walk in The Valley of Darkness no evil would I fear for You are there'. In our hour of trial Jesus calls on us, his followers, to serve the common good by taking responsibility for each other and to prioritise the most vulnerable in our community ahead of our own individual wants and aspirations.

Sunday / Weekday Mass

At this time the celebration of Mass on Sundays and on weekdays – is available online, many parishes have radio broadcasts and webcams see RTE News Now @10am or churchservices.tv/letterkenny

Celebration of the Sacrament of the Sick

Concerning the pastoral care of the sick and the administration of the sacrament, the priest will use a cotton bud or surgical glove for the anointing with Holy Oil and dispose of them appropriately.

Reviewing this information

We ask everyone to continue to follow the guidance of the public health authorities north and south. As the situation evolves, Church-specific information will be updated and

published on local diocesan websites, on the website of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference www.catholicbishops.ie and on their related digital media platforms.

Prayer for our protection

We ask for prayers for those affected by the Coronavirus. Placing all our trust in the Lord, and asking Our Lady to intercede for us, we invite everyone to pray these prayers:

Most Glorious Queen of Heaven and Mother of God, You whom the Blessed Trinity has crowned with unequalled glory. You are the Sovereign Queen over all God's Creation. I place myself and all my loved ones under the power, protection and sovereignty of your Crown. Under the protection of your crown I will fear no other crown and through your immense intercessory power I ask you to spare us all from the effects of the Corona virus. Dearest Mother and Queen, we, your children in Christ Jesus, ask you to obtain for us an end to the spread of this virus. Amen. (Now Pray the Memorare)

Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,
that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection,
implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided.

Inspired with this confidence,

I fly to you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother.

To you I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful.

O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy, hear and answer. Amen.

For media contact: Catholic Communications Office Maynooth: Martin Long +353 (0) 86 172 7678 and Brenda Drumm +353 (0) 87 310 4444.

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John Curtis

General Secretary

12th March 2020