

## **INFORMATION FOR PARENTS 24/3/2020**

### **1. President Higgins – Message for our young people**

The JMB and the other management bodies representing all of the second-level schools in the State are communicating with their schools asking them to forward the message delivered by President Higgins on the importance of social distancing to the parents of students in their schools.

<https://president.ie/en/media-library/news-releases/statement-from-president-of-ireland-following-his-signature-of-the-health-preservation-and-protection-and-other-emergency-measures-in-the-public-interest-bill-2020>

President Higgins is urging young people to respond in a generous way to the Health Service Executive's advice on measures to alleviate the spread of Covid19. The management bodies are working together to ensure that appropriate messaging is delivered to all second-level students. This further reinforces the pronouncements of An Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, other government ministers and health officials on the responsibility of all to adhere to social distance guidelines and to respond to HSE advice at this time of national emergency.

Students are reminded that they can play their part in the national effort to curb the spread and the worse effects of the Covid-19 virus. Schools are closed to students at present to prevent the spread of this highly contagious and potentially lethal virus. By avoiding assembling and socialising in groups, students will be playing their part in supporting the national health campaign.

We would also like to acknowledge the work and innovative methodologies that have been undertaken in schools by management and teachers promoting continuity of contact with their students through distance learning and other means. We would further like to thank students and parents for their engagement with this process in the face of the challenges that it can entail, and would encourage all in our school communities to do everything you can to maintain the learning and social and pastoral connection between the student and the school.

### **2. State Examinations Commission**

Further to the statement from the State Examinations Commission on the State exams last week, they have published an FAQ on the impact of this decision for candidates on their website.

<https://www.examinations.ie/misc-doc/BI-SE-67826275.pdf>

### **4. HSE Resources in a range of languages**

DES has asked us to draw your attention to useful resources on the Coronavirus which are now available in a range of languages other than English and Irish. These were produced by the Department of Health and the HSE who have asked that the information is disseminated as necessary and would hope that parents and students for whom English/Irish is not their first language will find this information useful.

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/news/newsfeatures/covid19-updates/partner-resources/covid19-translated-resources/>

**The languages currently available are Chinese, Italian, Spanish, French, Arabic, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Latvian and Lithuanian.**

### **5. Mental Health Support during Covid 19**

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/mental-health-services/connecting-for-life/news/supports-and-services-during-covid-19.html>