



Information for Pupils & Parents – 22nd May 2020

Welcome to the latest update from Larne Grammar School.

School reopening

In a statement to the Assembly on 21st May, the Education Minister announced that *“subject to medical guidance and safety it would be my aim to see a phased reopening of schools, beginning with a limited provision for key cohort years in late August, followed by phased provision for all pupils at the beginning of September. This will not be a return to school as it was prior to COVID, but rather a new normal reflective of social distancing and a medically safe regime. For all pupils it will involve a schedule with a mixture of school attendance and remote learning at home.”*

No further details have been provided to schools and there is no timescale for a return to full-time school attendance. It is also important to acknowledge the extreme complexity of opening and organising schools in the manner envisaged.

For now, the timetable set out by the Minister is provisional and may change in the coming weeks. However, it is clear that, for a period of time, we will have to adapt normal school routines and practices, amend the school day, suspend extra-curricular activities, limit access to school buildings for parents and visitors, and cancel some scheduled school events. We are pressing ahead with these plans and will share them with you in due course. Your patience, understanding and support will be vital in ensuring the successful implementation of the arrangements that are put in place.

We now know that schools will not reopen before the end of this current year but I suspect it may be a while before we know for certain exactly what is going to happen at the beginning of the new academic year.

Contact with parents

Over the last number of weeks, subject teachers and year heads have been emailing and telephoning a number of pupils and parents to offer support in relation to remote learning. We continue to acknowledge the difficulties families are facing in the current circumstances and managing remote learning is problematic for many different reasons. Each situation is unique but we want to offer our help to ensure that all of our pupils are able to continue to learn whilst they are at home, especially as we now know that a full-time return to school is still some way off.

We recognise the efforts being made by so many of our pupils and parents to manage remote learning alongside family, caring and work responsibilities and deal with limited access to IT equipment and problems with internet connectivity. We also acknowledge that it is not easy to remain motivated and focused two months on but I still believe that maintaining a sense of routine and continuing to engage with school work is important in ensuring both pupil wellbeing and their education.

Throughout this time, we want to ensure that we maintain effective and supportive relationships with all of the members of the school community. It is in this spirit that we have been communicating with you.

Remote Learning Survey

Mr Kirkpatrick has emailed a link to a survey on remote learning to all pupils. I would be grateful if pupils would take five minutes to complete this survey. This will allow us to gather some important information on remote learning, internet connectivity and access to ICT equipment and will help inform our future practice.

School Development Day - Reminder

Monday 25th May is a School Development Day so pupils can take a break from their school work.

AQE Registration 2020 - Reminder

Registration for the 2020 AQE assessments (for pupils currently in Primary 6) is now open.

The online registration process can be accessed via the AQE website -

www.aqe.org.uk/registration-2020/

Further information on AQE and the wider transfer process can be found on the

Admissions section of the school website - www.larnegrammar.org.uk/?page_id=7427

Pastoral and Safeguarding Support

Pupils and parents can continue to access pastoral support by contacting the relevant Year Head. Contact details for external agencies can be found on the school website and details regarding the Independent Counselling Service for Schools and raising Safeguarding/Child Protection concerns can also be found on the website.

Further Communication

Information regarding the school closure will continue to be sent to parents through the school text messaging service and/or will be posted on the school website –

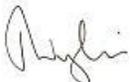
www.larnegrammar.org.uk and Twitter account (@larnegrammar). It is very important that parents and pupils check the school website regularly and that pupils log into their C2k email account daily.

Contact with the school can be initiated through the main info@ account:

info@larnegrammar.co.uk or through the school telephone number – 028 2827 2791.

As we are operating with a skeletal staff, parents should note that emails and telephone calls may not receive an immediate response but we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Thank you for all your continued support and co-operation.



J Wylie
Principal