

# St Patrick's CBC

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20 August 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

## ACADEMICS

I apologise in advance for my tone in this letter. However, if your child is adhering to deadlines, keeping up to date with lessons, submitting assignments and assessments and communicating with the teachers, then this letter is not aimed at you or your child, but still VERY IMPORTANT to take note of.

2020 has not been easy on anyone. So even though we are sympathetic to pupils' and parents' situations, it has been challenging for all of us. From the school's point of view, we have really tried to accommodate everyone as far as possible.

The teaching staff are currently expected to teach both online and face-to-face to accommodate all pupils. This requires significantly more time, effort and planning than usual. They are not complaining. They are doing what is expected of them (and more!), but at this point I believe that it is important to reiterate the following matters:

### HOME LEARNING

Even though I have never doubted the need for home learning during this time, you must realise that there is a far greater responsibility on you as parents of home learners to ensure that your child is keeping up with school work and has the necessary 'tools' to make it a success, e.g. data access, a reliable electronic device, a suitable work space, etc. You are ultimately the one to have the face-to-face experience with your child, and not the teacher. If both you and your husband work full days, and no one is able to assist your child during the day, home learning might not be the best suited option for you as a family. However, this does not apply when your child is sick and kept at home for a specific reason.

### TIMETABLE

Certain pupils are not following the timetable and simply checking Edmodo as to what was posted most recently by staff. Both Senior Primary and High School follow a Green or Yellow Week Timetable. Unless otherwise communicated, they remain the same and alternate week by week. Pupils should please follow the timetable to ensure that they keep up with the pupils at school.

### DEADLINES

A number of pupils are not adhering to deadlines set by teachers. Please note that no extension will be given for any assessment, unless communication is sent to the teacher to inform her/him of the reason for the late submission. Assessments handed in after the due date will receive a zero mark. It is not fair to submit late, and expect the marks once the memorandums have been circulated and feedback given. Time management is a valuable life skill, and your child can greatly benefit by learning to stick to deadlines given and being held accountable for decisions made.

## PREPARED WORK PACKS

For certain grades/subjects, the teachers prepare ad hoc workbooks, activity packs, etc. When you receive communication in this regard, please make every effort to fetch it at Security as soon as possible. It is prepared at school in order to save you the expense of doing it at home, but it is quite demotivating if it is not fetched at all. Secondly, it was prepared for the benefit of your child and they will miss out on important work or development opportunities by not getting it.

## SEPTEMBER EXAMS/ASSESSMENTS (GRADES PR-11)

The September Exams will be set by subject teachers and pupils will be expected to complete these assessments during the time frame allocated. Pupils may either complete it at school or at home. A survey will be sent out to confirm where your child will be writing. Please make sure to complete this on time. Although these assessments will contribute towards the pupils' reports, the results will be used to gauge the progress of each individual pupil and to identify any gaps and strengths. As such, it is imperative that pupils are encouraged to complete the work by themselves under exam conditions. The failure to complete and return them to the school during the allocated time will result in the pupil receiving a zero for that assessment and may hamper the pupil's advancement to the next grade in 2021.

Please remember that all of the current processes were introduced to ensure that all pupils enjoy the same learning experience, be it at home or at school. If we start making exceptions for your child, it is not fair on the rest of the class who have also faced challenges, but made every effort to submit it on time.

The staff are setting deadlines, sending reminders, posting words of encouragement and even informing pupils after cut-off if they have missed deadlines. The least that the pupils can do, is to do their bit daily and keep to the programme.

If your child is in the wrong, please do not escalate it to me. I will give you the same answer as the teaching staff. If your child has hardly submitted any assessments or tasks this year, they cannot expect to progress to the following grade.

We ask parents/guardians to assist the teachers in ensuring that pupils submit their work on time and in doing so give themselves the best chance to perform to their potential.

We are in this together, and we will get through this together.

Yours sincerely



**Jacques Tredoux**  
EXECUTIVE HEAD