



Portadown College

Principal: Gillian R Gibb, BA(Hons), PGCE, MSc, PQH(NI)

31 March 2020

Dear Year 13 Parent/Carer

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well. Please see below updated information in respect of key issues important to your son/daughter at this time:

Latest Information from CCEA (27 March 2020)

- (1) CCEA is finalising options for the awarding of grades for GCSE and GCE qualifications and will shortly be advising the Department of Education on this. As part of its deliberations, CCEA is considering a broad range of data and information that may be used.
- (2) Oral examinations cannot take place.
- (3) Learners should still be working towards completing their programme of study; CCEA will provide further updates as soon as possible.

The College will communicate further information to parents/carers on assessment and awarding of grades as it is made available.

College Online Learning Provision

As previously outlined and in accordance with CCEA's information (above), teachers will continue to facilitate online learning for Year 13 students to enable them to complete AS programmes of study.

Until informed by subject teachers that specific courses are completed, Year 13 students are expected to engage with online learning until Friday 1 May*.

**It is intended that the vast majority of courses will be completed by Friday 1 May. In exceptional circumstances where this is not the case, specific subject teachers will communicate accordingly with their students via Google Classroom.*

Please note that work will not be set/monitored during the Easter Holidays (Monday 6 to Friday 17 April 2020 inclusive).

From Monday 4 May, teachers will commence remote delivery of A2 material until further notice. All students are expected to engage with these materials which will be monitored by teachers.

Please note that all Year 13 students are expected to complete AS courses and commence the A2 programme as outlined above. Whilst some students may believe they do not wish to continue with a particular AS subject at A2, we are seeking to safeguard student choices in the current circumstances; the present context is uncertain enough for our young people, without them making uninformed or rash decisions about A2 subjects at this time.

Your ongoing understanding and support in respect of these issues is much appreciated.

CEIAG Support and UCAS Updates

Year 13 students should continue to work through the information regarding personal statements in the Year 13 workbook. All PowerPoints have been uploaded to the Year 13 CEIAG Google Classroom. The code is **vxy3vza**. Further information will be uploaded and work set for the 4 weeks in June to prepare students for the return in Year 14.

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Student Well-being

- (1) The National Crime Agency's (NCA) Child Exploitation and Online Protection Team (CEOP) has produced helpsheets to support parents and carers in keeping their children safe online while they are off school (please see attached).
- (2) Parentline NI has informed schools that all of its Regional Parents Helpline is in full operation throughout this period. Parentline can be contacted on freephone 0808 8020 400 to provide advice, support and guidance to parents and carers.

Parentline is open:

- Monday- Thursday 9am-9pm
- Friday 9am-5pm
- Saturday 9am-1pm

Parents/carers can also contact Parentline via webchat www.ci-ni.org.uk or by emailing parentline@ci-ni.org.uk.

Sincere gratitude for your ongoing support and goodwill. Please be assured of the continuing best wishes of the College community to you and your family at this difficult time.

Yours sincerely

Gillian R Gibb

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Principal