



Roll No: 91427C

1/5/20

## *Heywood Community School*

### Board of Management

Ballinakill, Co. Laois.

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Dear Student/Parent,

Please take note of the following in relation to the remaining weeks of online T. & L., end of year assessments and some general information. I hope students are coping well and still working with teachers online.

#### Student T. & L. Online.

We have given out 8 Laptops on loan to sixth year students this week who were having difficulty accessing a proper device for school work. While the grant is specifically for L.C. students, we would try to assist parents of students in other year groups if possible. Priority to 5<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Parents should email [principal@heywood.ie](mailto:principal@heywood.ie)

A letter will be sent out to parents this coming week of students not engaging in any online school work based on teacher feedback. Advice to teachers is to stay working with those that are engaged. Parents are asked to ensure that students engage in the teaching and guidance being provided or to inform the school why students cannot engage. In this way we may be able to support one another.

#### End of Year Assessments.

We had a Google Meet meeting with Subject Coordinators on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April. We decided that the end of year assessment for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> yrs. will consist of the following three components;

70% as an assessment mark based on the Christmas exam, Classroom Based Assessments and Mid-term Assessments completed during the school year 2019/20 up until March 12<sup>th</sup> 2020.

15% based on the quality of online engagement by each student from March 12<sup>th</sup> 2020 until the return to school or the end of the school year.

15% for an end of Summer-term assessment to be set by Subject Departments/teachers.

The Summer-term assessment may take the form of a set of short questions completed and submitted by students online (There are lots of options.), or an open book one hour exam with students given three hours to complete it or a more comprehensive open book exam (Senior students??) with 48hrs. to complete and submit. Decisions per subject will be communicated to students next week.

It is intended to draw up a timetable for these exams over 10 day period from mid May to avoid overload for students and to eliminate subject clashes for teachers and Sub. Departments.

Common Subject Department exams for year group will be set where possible.

These exams must avoid a clash with Junior Cycle exams at end of May.

T.Y. Assessment: Mr. Dowling and Mr. Byrne have already engaged with Tutors and Management on T.Y. The Portfolio will be the key component for T.Y. end of year assessment for 2019/20. Some discussions ongoing re. T.Y. Interviews and appropriate subject specific assessments. Timetable can be arranged if required. Details will be finalized next week.

#### Junior Cert/Cycle.

Please read email re. J.C. exams on School Website. Management and Subject Coordinators have decided that J.C. work up to March 12<sup>th</sup> would represent 80% of the final school grade in each subject and the remaining 20% would be awarded for an end of year assessment set by Subject Departments and run by the school by dates set out recent Statement from The Minister and Guidelines from Advisory Group. More discussion on this needed at Sub. Dep. Level. Input from Parents' Association welcome. However, the Press Release and Circular does not leave too much room for manoeuvre. Our students can expect H.C.S. Based Exams to run 20<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> May. Parents of students with difficulty accessing the internet or a suitable device should contact the school at [principal@heywood.ie](mailto:principal@heywood.ie).

**No online Teaching & Learning engagement is expected on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> to facilitate Subject Department Meetings which are being convened to finalise some of the above.**

General Information.

T.Y. Enrolment; Letters of acceptance/non-acceptance are expected to issue next week.

Cancelled Art Trip to Italy for sixth years; 20% of costs returned and sent to parents.

Cancelled T.Y. Trip to Barcelona; 80% of costs returned and posted to parents on Thursday last.

Thanks to Ms. Sharon Webster and Ms. Sinéad Clifford for all their work in organising trips and securing refund for parents and students.

See below why we couldn't follow the T.T. for all years as we are doing for sixth years.

Some students are minding siblings while their parents go to work.

Some students are sharing one device with two or three other siblings.

Some students may be in isolation.

Parents of students may be in isolation.

Teachers may be in isolation.

Some teachers are looking after aged parents.

Some teachers are minding their own children.

Some students are working to support parent(s) who have lost their jobs.

Some teachers are coping with partners/spouse working on the front line.

Policy on remote learning approved by Board of Management on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> of April. On website in next few days. Draft policy on Career Guidance Online recommended to board on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup>. This is expected to be approved in coming week and will then go on website.

Admissions policy currently being reviewed by the Trustees.

Exam fees for third years have been waived by DES. Exam fees for L.C. have been postponed until after the L.C. in August.

Focus for DES. is now on L.C. and the details around running exams and practicals within H.S.E guidelines. Decisions on some of these issues not yet reached.

Thanks to members of Parents' Association who attended meeting last week. It was the first ever Parents' Association meeting on 'Zoom'. The meeting put forward a motion of appreciation to teachers for all their hard work with student engagement. Thanks to parents.

Students are reminded to stick with HSE. Guidelines and help parents by cooperating and getting school work done and submitted back to teachers. Stay positive and work through this emergency.

Go dté sibh slán. Yours, P. Bowe.