



**Holy Faith Secondary School,
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28th April 2020

Parents of students in 6th Year

Dear Parents/Guardians

We have now commenced the final term of the school year with schools at present closed indefinitely. Towards the end of this week a further announcement is expected from the Department of Education and Skills following consultation between the various stakeholders. The start date of the Leaving Certificate has been put back to Wednesday 29th July with a revised timetable to issue early in June.

I am sure you have many questions and concerns regarding these changes and there has been, and will be, much speculation in the print and social media. I would advise you to be guided by ministerial and government decisions which will be issued through the DES and SEC websites. I will notify you of these decisions and the implications they have for your daughter and the school. With regard to examination fees, the deadline for payment has been extended but if not yet paid, my advice would be to delay until further notice. Should your daughter be ill or if there has been illness in the family which would impact her work, please inform the year head, Ms King, via the App. I am acutely aware of the upset and stress these decisions have caused to both you and especially your daughter, but please be assured that the school will endeavour to work in the best interests of all concerned.

At present, all students should be focused on a 6 week programme of work to the end of May. I am conscious of the difficulties being experienced by both students and teachers working from a domestic environment. Students may have limited access to devices and Wi-Fi/broadband, scheduling of classes and assignments are problematic and both students and teachers have demands being placed on them that they would not normally have to contend with. I am aware that a number of students are working in part-time jobs and while not ideal, I hope this is a matter that you have considered as a family weighing up all the pros and cons. The priority should be the health, safety and wellbeing of all concerned.

This term in 6th year is usually one that also has an element of fun and celebration; the graduation Mass, prize-giving, the Head Girl's speech, the emotional goodbyes and pranks. It is important that the girls' final days in school are marked but the class of 2020 will have what I hope will be a novel and imaginative send off.

Yours sincerely,

**Deirdre Gogarty,
Principal**