Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you are aware the COVID-19 virus is a fast-moving situation and the Taoiseach and the Chief Medical Officer Dr Tony Holohan has advised that the decision to close schools and colleges has been made on public health grounds. The decision to close schools and Colleges has been made at Government level and in cooperation with the HSE. We have prepared a plan to keep teaching and learning going throughout the period of closure. Please note the following:

1. Following receipt of this letter Ardgillan College will communicate with parents through SMS and with students via email and learning platforms such as Edmodo. Please ask students to check their email and on-line learning accounts regularly.
2. Our teachers have been working on plans to continue delivering teaching during a period of closure.
3. Students will be asked to make themselves available during the day to interact with learning content throughout the closure period.  We ask them to structure their day and continue generally in line with their school timetable. Teachers have let students know how they will be interacting with their classes over that time e.g. Edmodo etc. We also hope to provide a help via email in the first few days.
4. Teachers will deliver in as accessible a way as possible. Some of the delivery methods will include use of existing technologies, which can include smart phones and/or other devices.  Access to Apps that are accessible on all devices including smart phones, may also be helpful to them over that time.
5. With regard students who may not have access to appropriate devices from home we will advise schoolwork based on texts and exam papers.
6. The administrative team in the office will also be working remotely and so the College phone will not be answered.  Emails will continue to be dealt with and any follow up phone calls will be made where necessary.
7. Once plans are in place to reopen the centre, you will receive either an email and/or a text message beforehand.
8. I would advise all families to view the videos available on the HSE and WHO websites which outline good etiquette around hygiene and keeping you and your loved ones safe.  It is advised that if you are immuno-compromised or are worried about your health being compromised that you contact your GP or the HSE.

We have an opportunity to come together to limit the impact of this disease, both on our physical health and mental well-being. See the following links to HSE and WHO videos:

* <https://youtu.be/1APwq1df6Mw>
* <https://youtu.be/bPITHEiFWLc>
* <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/coronavirus.html>

Regardless of the dchallenges that this is bringing, we look forward to continuing to work with you and your child and we wish all members of our school community the best for the coming weeks. Thank you for your co-operation.

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Nuala Ní Mhurchú Robert Finnegan Niall O’ Connor Caitriona Rooney

Principal Deputy Principal Deputy Principal Deputy Principal