

**Dear Parents/Guardians/Students,**

I hope that you all continue to stay well in these times. I just want to bring you some updates on what has been happening since our last Bulletin.

State Examinations:

There have been a number of ups and downs relating to both the Leaving Cert, Leaving Cert Applied and the Junior Certs. We now know that the Leaving Cert written exams are due to start on July 29th but we are still awaiting an announcement on the Project and Practical components.

Clarity has come this week on the Junior Cert/Cycle. Thankfully, students will not have to wait to the autumn to do exams, but will now instead do school based assessments at the end of this month. Students will then receive the normal school report and a state issued certificate in the autumn to acknowledge that they have completed their Junior Cycle Education.

Subject Departments have met to discuss how to organise this and have taken the direction of the Department of Education and Skills and the State Examinations Commission that this will be a whole school approach.

Mindful of the year that is in it, and the fact that school based education was disrupted from March 12th, the Department of Education and Skills has requested that work done by students up to March 12th be acknowledged as part of the final mark. Students will receive a VShare Report as normal, with a final mark (60% going for work done prior to March 12th and 40% on and end of year Assessment). Third Year Students are encouraged to work with teachers over the coming weeks to put in one final effort in for 3rd Year. Teachers will let you know when your assessments will take place (there is no formal Exam Timetable this year) and the shape that it will take. The last two weeks of the year ie starting on 18th May, has been set aside for assessments for 1st to 5th Years, including 3rd Years.

End of Year for 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th Years.

I would encourage all of our non examination years to continue to work with their teachers over the next two weeks also, as these year groups will also have an end of year assessment. As mentioned above, these assessments will be conducted in the last two weeks of the school year, beginning on 18th May. Individual subject teachers will let you know when to expect your assessment.

Student Engagement:

I want to complement our student population on how well they have worked with us over the last few weeks, in what are challenging times for us all. I would remind Parents/Guardians and students, that where a student has not engaged at all, this is treated as absence from school/education and it will be discussed with the Educational Welfare Officer. There may be challenges, but we all have to try to work to master them.



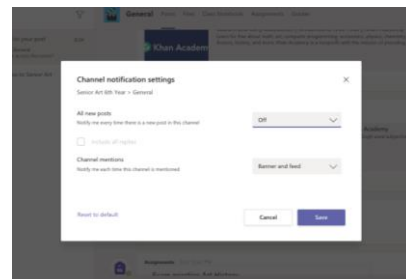
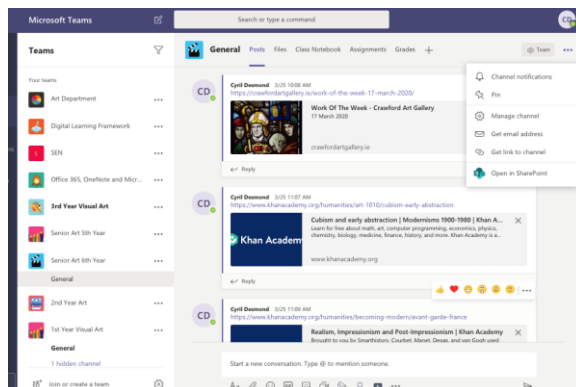
Book Rental Scheme for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Years.

Like all other aspects of our business, we will start managing the Book Rental Scheme, remotely also. You will receive an email next week, explaining how it will operate this year. Meanwhile, those of you who have your rental books at home with you, make sure that you are keeping them in good order. Those of you who have rental books in school, when it is possible to do so, we will reunite you with them so that they can be handed in. I ask for your patience on this and once we have an idea as to when we can access the school, we will be back in touch.

Teams/ online classes

Over the last two weeks, many of our students have been participating in live classes with their teachers in Microsoft Teams. Some students have reported that they were not getting notifications of when the classes were happening. As was advised in an earlier bulletin, notifications must be turned on before this will happen.

When you open the link to your Class or Subject Team, please ensure that notifications are turned on, so you can see exactly when schoolwork has been given. Click on the three dots on the top right of the screen to open Channel Notifications and select **ON**. (See images below).



Please remember that you can communicate at all times with teachers directly though their school email if you have difficulty accessing these platforms and apps.

Long weekend

As we approach the end of the day and the start of a long weekend, I want to thank the whole school community for continuing to engage with us. It is time now to take a break over the weekend, so that we can all come back refreshed on Tuesday. Enjoy what will hopefully be good weather – stay safe and stay well. *Kathleen Lowney*