



PCH Staff Newsletter

April 9, 2020

Volume 1, Number 2

*'ALL SHALL BE WELL, AND
ALL SHALL BE WELL, AND
ALL MANNER OF THINGS
SHALL BE WELL' Julian of
Norwich*

**TEACHERS TRYING
TO KEEP UP WITH
THEIR ONLINE CLASSES**



Increasingly Restricted

Dear Colleagues,

We hope this finds you and your loved ones well. This has been another challenging week for us all as we battle an invisible, but cruel and frightening enemy. Life has become increasingly restricted. The reality of this horrible virus has started to strike closer to home.

Challenges

We want to thank you all, most sincerely, for your hard work, commitment, stoicism, ingenuity and professionalism. It is incredibly challenging to work from home. We are bombarded by daily unforeseen challenges; the fear of family members becoming ill, the guilt of leaving our own young children in front of the TV while we work, the lack of broadband width especially when 3 adults may be trying to work from home, the sense of being constantly 'switched on' & 'cooped up', the disturbed sleep, the concern that not all our students are engaging, and a distorted sense of time- to name but a few!

Take a bow

We have adapted in a way previously thought impossible, we have retrofitted an education system in 3 short weeks. Whatever method we may have chosen; Google Classroom, Zoom, Loom, Google Hangouts, Google Meet, email, or by post- well done! Whatever it takes, we have done it to ensure the students of PCH continue to receive the high standard of education synonymous with our school. These technological tools will never replace the warmth, fun, depth, meaning, and connection of face to face interaction with our students, but they will have to do as we navigate this new landscape, blind.

We have been sent some very valuable feedback from staff which we will share with you in this newsletter. Hopefully, it will assist you in working smarter and not harder

Take a deep breath, be kind to yourself. No one is expecting you to be on-line for hours on end. Stay well

Ní neart go cur le chéile- There is strength in unity

Aisling, Ciarán & Orla

"Optimist: someone who figures that taking a step backward after taking a step forward is not a disaster; it's more like a cha-cha"





Link to INSPIRE WELLBEING SERVICE

<https://www.inspirewellbeing.org/workplaces>

Teaching Online for Primary and Post Primary Teachers / during School Closures- ONLINE COURSE

<https://teachercpd.ie/module/view.php?id=11798>

GUIDE FOR PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN

<https://www.education.ie/en/The-Department/Announcements/guide-for-parents-supporting-children.pdf>

FEEDBACK FROM STAFF THIS WEEK

- "40 minutes in class roughly equates to 20 minutes online- online teaching and learning is very intense"
- "Email the teacher politely and inform them if you cannot get all of your work submitted by the appointed time- just as you would in class"
- "TURN OFF YOUR NOTIFICATIONS- you do not have to respond every time your phone chirps!"
- Put assignments in the 'Assign' section of Google Classroom, avoid putting it in the stream as it is difficult to find. The Assign tab makes correction and the assignment of tasks much more streamlined"
- "It is very difficult to work online with small children and a spouse/partner also working online"
- "It isn't always possible to keep school hours"
- "Try to give the subjects on the day we normally have them"
- "Broadband is very poor – difficult to upload/download large documents (may be better to avoid a lot of images)"
- "Post work earlier in the week- give rest of week for work to be completed"
- "Search for resources which autocorrect- www.educateplus.ie"
- "I enjoy the live classes, great to interact with the students, I miss the buzz of the classroom"
- "Online etiquette & email etiquette is poor"
- "Need to extend the deadlines for work to be submitted"

