



STUDENT NEWSLETTER

April 26, 2020

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DEAR STUDENTS & FAMILIES

We hope this newsletter finds you and your loved ones well after the Easter break. We are aware that a number of families suffered heart-breaking bereavements in the past few weeks. This is a tragedy at any time, but it is further compounded now by not being able to celebrate and mourn a loved one's life with a wake and a funeral. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and please know that we are only a click away if you need us.

There are 5 weeks left in this school term, our emphasis during this time will be on connecting with our students and engaging them in their learning. Our focus will be on revision and preparation for end of term assessments. This is what we would usually do in these last few weeks. This applies to all students in all years. We would ask you all to make a special and concerted effort to engage in a meaningful way with your teachers on Google Classroom. Engagement, participation and homework may form a percentage of your end of term mark. If there is an issue with too much work or too little time to complete it, please email your teacher politely and let them know- just as you would in class. We know how difficult remote learning is and we know you are missing your friends and the fun you had in school, we are really missing you too! Please give the next five weeks your best shot, you will really reap the rewards of your work when we return to normal.

A sincere thank you to parents for taking the time to fill out our survey over the weekend. Please know that we are reading your replies carefully and we are addressing the issues highlighted. The survey is on our website and we are accepting replies until 4 pm on Wednesday April 29th.

To our Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate students- you are in our thoughts at the moment and we totally understand your stress and confusion. Recent items in the media have probably added to your anxiety. We will clarify some issues for you on page 2 of this newsletter.

Stay safe and well

Aisling McAlpine, Ciarán Ryan & Orla Jackson



And so trusting in Your mercy God, I walk through life like a little child, offering you today my heart and all that I do for your greater glory. St Faustina

State Exams- Clarification

Leaving Certificate

As you are aware, from the media, there are significant changes to state exams this year. The Minister of Education, Department of Education officials and the State Examinations Commission have been engaged in an extensive consultation process with all educational partners, including student and parent representative bodies. The aim has been to develop clarity on all operational aspects of this year's state examinations, while adhering to government health guidelines and the key principles of integrity and equity.

The Minister for Education confirmed yesterday that the **Leaving Certificate will commence on July 29th 2020**. We are advised that, pending public health advice, a more comprehensive timetable will be available at the beginning of June. We will continue to work with our students and our parents to ensure that your child gets the relevant correct information and support that they need. Our students will be thoroughly prepared for these exams.

Junior Certificate

In terms of assessment and reporting of this year's Junior Cycle, the following clarifications have been issued by the Department of Education this week:

1. Students in recognised schools are required to study subject and short courses in accordance with the Junior Cycle Programme as set out in DES Circular 0055/2019
2. Students are not required to undertake Junior Cycle final examinations in 2020
3. Schools are free to use the assessments provided through the NCCA and SEC, but they are also free to design and organise the assessment of students' progress in accordance with their own school's policies
4. Examination fees in respect of this year's Junior Cycle will not apply

However, in relation to the Junior Cycle examinations, Classroom-Based Assessments, Assessment Tasks and project work, the Minister of Education believes that it would be preferable that discussions with the education partners are concluded before schools consider their assessment arrangements for Junior Cycle students in 2020. This is very much aligned to our own position. Further clarification will be issued later this week.



Phone Calls



You may be getting calls from an unknown number during school hours. While we understand you may not like answering such calls, it may be somebody from PCH checking to see how your child is doing.

A STUDENT'S GUIDE TO ONLINE CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

WORK SPACE

Choose a workspace that is suitable for the online classroom.



Be aware of what others will see in the background.

SHHHH...!

Mute your mic when you are not talking or typing. Only turn it on if you are asked to speak.



BE ON TIME

Turn up – the class is to help you and your learning

Be on time for your online classes



NO PHOTOS

Do not take screenshots or photos of others online



SCHOOL RULES

School rules apply in the online classroom

Think before you type. Keep focused on the task assigned.



PRESENTATION

Dress appropriately



SPEAK UP & ASK FOR HELP

Contact teachers during school hours or make an agreement about contact times



RESPECT

Respect everyone's views online



ENJOY IT!

Enjoy this new way of learning. It is new to a lot of people and it may take time to adapt



We lead highly effective schools consistent with our core values

School Support Directorate - Education and Training Boards Ireland 2020



- Only use your @presheadford.ie email account to contact teachers
- Support with IT is available from Mr Ryder (tom.ryder@presheadford.ie) & Mr Toner (john.toner@presheadford.ie)



College and Cao information

SUSI Grants for College

SUSI opened for grant applications on the **23rd of April**. The deadline for priority applications **is the 9th of July** but as the grants are awarded on a first come, first served basis we encourage you to **apply early**. Go to **www.susi.ie** to make an application and for all the information needed. Parents and Guardians will have to assist with completion of the form. Please take note of your Login details as it can be difficult to reset your account if you forget them. There is an eligibility reckoner tool which will let you know if you are entitled to the grant. The student grant is independent of any HEAR or DARE applications and individual applications must be made online.

The student grant is the main source of financial help available from the Irish State for students in full-time Post Leaving Certificate Courses (PLCs) and full-time higher education (CAO) undergraduate courses. Support is available to eligible students in most colleges in Ireland. For eligible students, the grant is there to help with the various costs of participating in further or higher education.

Family and/or personal income is a key factor that will be assessed when you apply for a student grant but there are also some other conditions. If you think you are eligible for the student grant, you should apply for it as soon as possible. You do not have to wait until you receive an offer of a place or enrol in college. Only when your application has been completed in full and submitted to the grant-awarding authority can your eligibility be determined.

The **ONLINE ONLY** grant applications system is the **only means of** application, County Councils are no longer involved in this process. All applications must be made online to the Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) through **www.susi.ie**

NUI Exemption Forms for Irish/Third Language

If you are applying through the CAO to one of the NUI Colleges for an Irish/Third Language exemption please fill in this form and return to the NUI registrar by email or post. The part with the Principal's signature may be left blank. NUI Colleges include: Maynooth, Galway, UCD and UCC and St. Angela's, NCAD, RCSI and Shannon College. **<http://www.nui.ie/college/docs/exemption.pdf>**

Make sure to tick the NUI exemption box on the CAO form. Students born outside of Ireland or who have a psychological report may be exempt from the Irish/Third Language requirement. Please contact your Guidance Counsellor directly by email if you think that you qualify for this entry requirement exemption.

Ms Whitney: joanne.whitney@presheadford.ie

Mr Slattery: john.slattery@presheadford.ie

Colleges of Further Education/ PLC courses.

GTI and many other college of Further Education still open for applications. Please apply online directly on the College Website.

CAO: Change of Mind From the **5th of May**, CAO applicants will be able to register an online change of course choices, free of charge. (This does not include restricted courses). This facility stays open until the **1st of July**. Here is an instruction video: <https://www.cao.ie/index.php?page=video&l=86519317>

iRevise

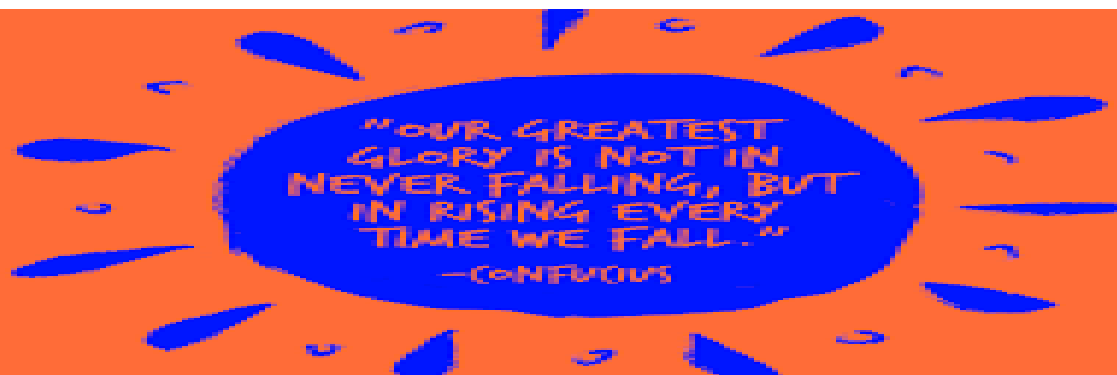
iRevise have offered full premium account upgrades for all sixth year students. Premium accounts include full access to notes, videos, sample solutions for all subjects.

Virtual Open Days

Lots of Colleges and Universities are holding virtual Open Days. For any students who may be considering reviewing their options these can be a good way to get a feel for the Colleges. More information can be found here:

<https://careersportal.ie/careerplanning/story.php?ID=2501203882>

Take care, stay safe, stay well!



Everything is Going to be All Right - Derek Mahon

*How should I not be glad to contemplate the clouds clearing beyond the dormer window
and a high tide reflected on the ceiling?*

*There will be dying, there will be dying,
but there is no need to go into that.*

*The poems flow from the hand unbidden
and the hidden source is the watchful heart.*

*The sun rises in spite of everything
and the far cities are beautiful and bright.*

*I lie here in a riot of sunlight
watching the day break and the clouds flying.*

Everything is going to be all right