

Presentation Secondary School, Clonmel, Tipperary



Principal: Michael O'Loughlin



Presentation Secondary School Clonmel is using the Microsoft 365 and Teams platform as means of providing online teaching and learning with their teachers and students. As part of our digital literacy plan, all our students have a Microsoft 365 account and had previous experience in using this account. Our focus for the present academic year is training our teachers regards the efficient use of Microsoft 365 and Teams. We were working with Stephen Eustace from Microsoft and Aidan Liston from PDST to help us provide a continuity of learning for students. However, like all schools, the unexpected closure and evolving situation has challenged all partners in education. In midst of challenging times, our staff have been exceptional in leading learning and support for all students. It is heartening to see many initiatives introduced on the online platform and teachers have adapted and responded to the needs of their students. Students have responded in a very proactive and engaging manner.

However there are still huge challenges for schools, teachers and parents in the use of online teaching and learning. For some students, access and availability of devices is an issue and for students from rural areas, broadband connectivity is a huge issue. Some of students are struggling to organise a specific study area in their own home, high unemployment has returned to our shores so finance for phone credit is a problem and there is a genuine worry in households regards the whole Covid 19 situation.

At the moment, the online is platform has helped us to continue our engagement with students, it will never replace the classroom-based teaching and learning. Students are missing the daily contact with their friends, classmates and teachers. Teachers are missing their students as well.

We will all look forward to the noise and laughter echoing through our corridors once again and when we return to normal life, we will have a new outlook regards online teaching and learning but we will have even more appreciation of our classrooms and our school environment.

I would like to thank teachers and students who have worked so hard over the number of weeks, we are really proud of everyone who upskilled and rose to meet the challenges that we encountered.

Mr. Michael O' Loughlin

*Principal
Presentation Secondary School, Clonmel*