



3rd April 2020

Dear Students of Glenamaddy Community School,

I hope you and your family are safe and well. It is heartening to see Ireland pull together, while staying apart in this battle against Covid 19. We are thinking of you all and send you our best wishes. We understand this is a difficult time for everyone, but we will prevail and as the Taoiseach said “*In the future, let them say, when things were at their worst, we were at our best*”.

Yesterday, Dr Mike Ryan, a Mayo/Sligo man and Head of the WHO’s Emergencies Programme commended the people of Ireland for their solidarity in dealing with the emergency saying, *they are looking after themselves, they are looking after each other; I’m proud to be an Irishman watching the way in which communities in Ireland have embraced, listened and acted to protect themselves and protect others.*

We would also like to applaud you for playing your part in fighting this pandemic. Thank you for minding each other by keeping apart, for washing your hands, for helping at home, for being a good citizen. Please, please follow the good advice and continue to ‘break the chain’.

We also want to say well done to all of you who have continued to do your schoolwork over the past few weeks, for working independently and with your teachers online. By taking on the challenge and responsibility of the new way of ‘going to school’, you are investing in yourself and your future. Admittedly, it isn’t always easy, but I think we have risen to the task and a lot of excellent work is being done.

Fair play to all who are doing their best, you have earned your Easter holiday. We understand school life is different for each year group:

Our First Years will have many more opportunities and adventures in the years ahead and can look forward to a rescheduled trip to Killary. Keep looking forward and be sure to finish all your schoolwork. Let Mr Heavey know if you have any issues.

We were glad to hear the good news from our Second Year Yearheads that you are all on board the online platform now. Please ensure you get all the assigned work completed. If you need any assistance, please let Ms Hardiman or Mr Conroy know.

To our 3rd Years, we say keep up your spirits, stay focused and prepare to shine for your Junior Certificate. As always, Mr. Frain has very positive things to say about you and is available if you have any questions. Ms Hession and Ms Gildea are working hard sorting your choices for Senior Cycle, be it Transition Year or Fifth Year Subject Options. If you or the TYs have any query, please email them.

Keep the faith, Transition Years, when we get through all this, we will be stronger, more resilient people. Please work on your assignments and undertake something new, something worthwhile and constructive from home. We will keep you posted and can talk again about the possibility of taking a school trip together at another time. Please keep in touch with Ms. Hession. Nil Desperandum.

I am sure the Leaving Certs would tell the Fifth Years it is best to keep working, so well done to those who have knuckled down, you are using your time wisely and will be thankful this time next year. Ms. O'Shea is letting us know how you are doing and praising you.

By all accounts the Leaving Certs, as we reminded them at assembly three weeks ago, are a credit to themselves. Your commitment and dedication to one another and your studies is super. Be reassured that you are in our thoughts and we fully empathise with you. All you can do is your best and you will do that. Ms. Madden has been in regular contact and keeps us informed of your progress. We were very impressed with your views and ideas regarding the exams and have relayed them to the SEC. Trust the Minister and the SEC to make the best possible decisions in the current circumstances and to let you know at the earliest possible time.

Everybody should take a break for Easter. It is important to find the balance between rest and work. We will return to the books afterwards.

If any student needs to talk to someone, Ms O' Flanagan, Ms Hardiman, and ourselves are available at noflanagan@glenacs.ie, dhardiman@glenacs.ie, egildea@glenacs.ie and jpduignan@glenacs.ie.

On your behalf, we want to thank all who are working for you - your families, all the staff of the school, the DES, SEC, HSE, indeed everyone, who is rallying in this hour of need.

Sometimes it is good to say *The Serenity Prayer* :

**God, Grant me the Serenity to Accept the Things I Cannot Change,
the Courage to Change the Things I can and the Wisdom to Know the Difference**

We look forward to seeing you all as soon as possible, school isn't the same without you ...

God Bless,

James Duignan
Principal

Eileen Gildea
Deputy Principal