Principal’s Update

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians

Can I again thank everyone for the continued outstanding support and commitment our students, parents and guardians have all shown to our Carmel community. In light of Government’s announcement last night requesting that schools and colleges close to students from Wednesday this week, we have made the following decision re Carmel’s operation.

We are informing all students, parents and guardians that we will continue with the online timetable for all Lower 6th and Upper 6th students for now until the end of this half term on Friday 12th February.

Year 0 students will continue with their online timetable until further notice.

Foundation Learning students will still be able to attend college.

We are continuing to monitor the situation with regard to the BTEC exams taking place this week and will keep students informed if we hear of any changes.

For now, we are planning to run the BTEC exams as planned over the next two weeks, this involves small numbers of students on each of the scheduled days and we are confident we can run these in a Covid safe manner.

The college will remain open to staff and students by invitation only; we will look at providing some study spaces as we progress through the next few weeks. The college will remain closed to students for this period but staff will be available during the timetabled days and hours in order support online or over the phone queries.

All college services such as pastoral support, careers will continue to be provided via remote services.

We still have not received precise details about how students will complete their qualifications, though there has been confirmation that this summer exams will not be taking place. The college will do everything we can to ensure that Carmel students will achieve the results they deserve and support their progression. We will continue to update you all when we get more information but our 8th February mock period will no longer take place.

To all our students; You have worked so hard during your time at Carmel and deserve the best. This work will not have been wasted, you still have the world at your feet and you can still chase your dreams once this crisis has passed, which in time it will. Please continue to fully commit yourselves to the online lessons – Carmel prides itself on the outstanding learning we offer our students – this learning (as opposed to exam grades) is what will be your toolkit for the future – what you learn over
the next few weeks you will take with on to University, work or future training and will equip you for what-ever the mad world will throw at you in the future

We have put in place procedures to ensure students in receipt of bursary or free school meals will be supported and have access to their appropriate allocation of funds. The Pastoral, Foundation learning and Additional Learning teams are also putting in place procedures and support packages for our learners with specific needs.

We will start to look at refunds for bus passes where applicable etc next week

I am sure there will be questions and queries about this change to the college operations; we will try and ensure that we have meetings and communication channels that will allow students to ask these. This is a moving feast and no doubt we may have to make further adjustments to the operation of the college.

Can I take this opportunity to thank all the staff at Carmel for their professionalism and total commitment to ensuring we support all our students through this challenging time, many of them will be in college again next week working to ensure we can maintain some of this support.

Thank you for your continued support

Mike Hill
Principal