

Dear students

I hope you are keeping well and staying safe during this very difficult period.

This is a long email and I would appreciate it if you could read it in full. It may serve to clarify some issues for you.

You may have heard the announcement by City of Dublin ETB (CDETb) last week that they were cancelling exams and replacing them with alternative assessments such as assignments/projects etc. We are **NOT** part of CDETb. Therefore, that decision and arrangement **DOES NOT APPLY** to our college.

We have been in constant contact with the head office of our ETB - Dublin and Dún Laoghaire (DDLETB) regarding our concerns over the amount of work left to complete by teachers and students. We are confident that some measure will be taken to assist the colleges by our own ETB but as yet there has been no announcement.

It is important to remember that the announcement by CDETb was the first of its kind in the country but also that there are 16 different ETBs around the country all trying to figure out what is best. Simply replacing the exam with an assignment is not necessarily the best solution for your course, particularly if you use specialist software, specialist equipment or specialist rooms.

Therefore, it is imperative that you continue to work on all your coursework for all your modules. You should engage with all the work that teachers are supplying you with online and taking advantage of the fact that your teachers are still available to support you if you are having any difficulties.

Remember, even if a future decision was made to copy CDETb, it does not cancel out the assignments and projects etc from your course - **you MUST complete your coursework.**

The national awarding body of your certificate, Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) has made it very clear that **all coursework and the quality of it must be adhered to as normal.**

Susan, the Deputy Principal and I are working very closely with all the teachers on contingency plans for completing your coursework when the college reopens.

Similarly, we are working with the examination coordinators on a draft examination timetable, ready for implementation, unless we hear otherwise.

Our immediate issue is that nobody knows for certain when we will back in college. The government has said March 30th but this is unlikely given the ongoing instruction to practice social distancing. We will continue to aim for March 30th however, until we know otherwise.

I won't bore you with all the other administrative work which is also under pressure behind the scenes, but just be aware that the difficulties which you are going through affects the whole college community.

Finally, remember, we are still here for you. You can contact the college in all the usual manners. Your teachers are available as per your timetable and to help you in your routine, you should try and stick to your timetable as best as possible.

Apologies for the long email. This is a very difficult time for you and I wanted to be as clear as possible.

Good luck with all your work. When I know more, I will inform you.

Best regards and stay safe,

Eoghan