



8th January 2021

Dear Parent/ Guardian

Foremost, I take this opportunity to wish you a Happy New Year and, in doing so, assure you that all DGS staff are working to their utmost in supporting learning through these difficult times.

With the announcement that schools will be closed until at least the 31st January 2021 students will continue their learning on-line from Monday 11th January.

The school has adopted Office 365 email as its main platform for communication with students.

In all cases students must use their own @dgs.ie account to log in. Students are not to use any other account, under any circumstances, for the purposes of Distance eLearning within the school.

The list of applications that will be used for distance learning will primarily be:

- Office365, incorporating:
 - Microsoft Outlook (e-mail)
 - Microsoft Teams
 - Microsoft OneNote
 - Microsoft Forms
 - Microsoft Stream

There may be some additional applications that teachers use, for example, Zoom for live online classes. Please ensure that the appropriate software is installed on your son/daughter's device. Teachers will provide each student with the information required to access the different applications. In all cases, please use the @dgs.ie account as the login.

Students are instructed to follow their timetable as much as possible and should communicate with their teachers during the school day.

The school will circulate Distance Learning Protocols next week. In the interim, it is the responsibility of the student to engage constructively with the online efforts of their teachers.

Students are expected to dress appropriately for virtual classes and must always be civil and respectful to their teachers and fellow students. Students are **not to record / photograph or forward any content** within a Teams group – such as worksheets, exam papers, answers, solutions, videos, notes or Zoom links – to anyone else without the direct permission of their teacher.

I would request that parents/guardians ensure, on a daily basis, that your son/daughter is checking in regularly for assigned work and positively engaging with their online learning.

It is important to be conscious of Child Protection Guidelines during virtual classes and please be mindful of what might be displayed in the background. Please note that any live online classes should be viewed by your son/daughter **only**.

Teachers have overall control of the online interaction with their classes. Disruptive students will be removed to enable those students who wish to learn, that they be given a fair chance to do so.

Any repeatedly disruptive students may receive a temporary ban from all online access and the parent/ guardian will be contacted.

Teachers will do their utmost to be available at the identified time on their timetable – this may be via a Zoom live video, through Teams chat or by e-mail during school hours.

Should any parent/guardian wish to make contact with a teacher they must follow the normal channels of communication by either phoning the school at 042-933-4459 or emailing admin@dgs.ie.

As a school we are very cognizant that many households face the challenges of poor broadband connection, having to share devices with more than one family member, young children etc. Please let the school know so that we can appropriately assist your son/daughter's needs.

If your child has any difficulties with their Office 365 account, we have two dedicated helpline numbers below:

Mr Paul Murphy 083 4857257 (available weekdays 9am- 4pm)

Mr Scott Nowell 083 4854034 (available weekdays 9am- 4pm)


If you are unable to get through to the above, then please email ict@dgs.ie.

As a school family and community, I am confident that we can manage the current situation and it is our goal to return to school full-time when it is safe to do so. I am also conscious of the anxiety and stress that our 3rd and 6th Year students are facing. I know their teachers are very mindful of these circumstances and are here to support them and all students through the next few weeks.

In the meantime, please continue to follow current government and HSE advice.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely


Jonathan Graham
Headmaster


Enda Murphy
Deputy Principal

