



9th January 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to our Virtual school. Online teaching and learning will commence on Monday 11th Jan for all students. All students will follow their class timetable: (No split breaks)

Monday to Thursday	8.50 – 1.10 (6 classes)
	1.45 – 3.45 (3 classes)
Friday	8.50 – 1.10 (6 classes)
Break	10.50 – 11.10*
Lunch	1.10 – 1.45*

According to Catlin Tucker 'on-line learning, increases students' agency, independence and paced learning'. The experience of Remote Teaching and Learning in our last lockdown has been a rich source of data regarding student engagement and achievement, access and teaching tools and skills. We have learned from this experience and it has guided us in developing our Remote Teaching and Learning Strategy and on-line teaching programmes in all subjects.

On – line Teaching and Learning using Microsoft TEAMS Platform.

Live teaching was seen as the gold standard in the last lockdown, but experts are now of the view that a mixture of

- Live and asynchronous classes
- Student individual practice
- Project work,
- Assignment and Assessment
- Feedback to students (individual/small groups)

is more effective in engaging students in their learning. Teachers in Garbally have and are developing course content and strategies that reflects this current thinking to ensure quality teaching and learning is maintained and progressed. It is therefore important that you encourage and support your son's engagement with his teachers.

ATTENDANCE AND ENGAGEMENT

As in the traditional classrooms, there are rules and expectations (Netiquette- On-Line Etiquette)in the virtual classroom and school. When students log on to TEAMS, they should:



Students will follow their class timetable, complete and upload all assignments. The quality of students' work and the frequency of completion will be monitored, recorded and contribute to students' overall assessment grade/mark.

Teachers, in collaboration with students' Year Heads have designed an Assignment Timetable, so that students will not be overwhelmed with assignments on any given day. It is therefore essential that students keep up to date in completion and submission. Your son's Year Heads will monitor your son's engagement closely and inform you of his lack of attendance/engagement. Completion of all assignments is required for assessment purposes.

CONNECT AND COMMUNICATE

We have taken on board recent research that states 'that the greater engagement by teachers, on line, the greater student engagement.

Teachers and students' Year Heads will inform students as to their availability for conferencing and communicating through TEAMS. The Digital Team will likewise be available at given times to assist with technical issues. We would ask that students would respect time slots. Members of the Pastoral Care Team can be contacted through 085 1726999. Students/Parents should make contact with Mr Paul Walsh Paul.walsh@garbally.ie regarding issues re access to devices etc

REVIEW AND EVALUATION

We as a staff will continue to monitor and evaluate the quality of our on-line programmes so that our students' experience is of the highest standard. We will keep you updated regarding Junior and Leaving Certificate Mocks and any other information from the DES. Thank you for your support. Keep safe.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Walsh

Jacinta Deady Henry