

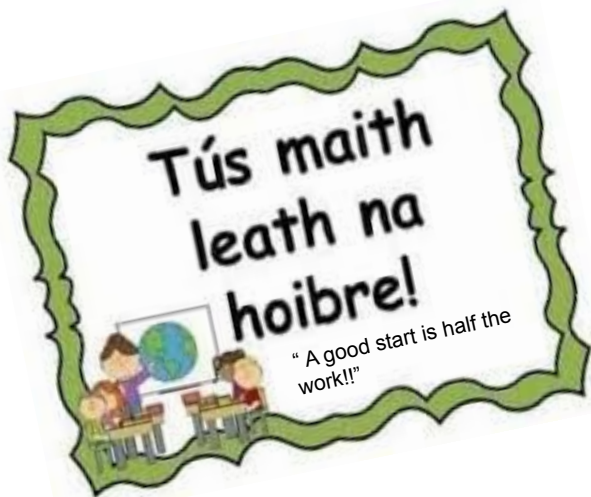
Back to School

Newsletter - January 15th 2021



Coláiste Mhic Chairchinn, Muineachán

Slán San Sem



This newsletter is a brief review of our first week of wholeschool remote learning since last summer. Teachers and students deserve great credit for the manner in which they have adapted to the current situation. Our experience from March to June last and our work developing our Google for Education platform at school has already proved to be time and resources well spent.

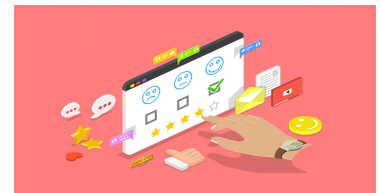
It's different this time

- Each school day will begin with a class assembly at 8.50 am .
- Students will have class in every subject every day.
- Live teaching will be a part of every class.
- Student attendance and participation in class will be tracked.
- For most students, homework will form part of the class.
- Students are expected to participate as if they were in school



To quote one of our junior students speaking earlier this week

what we expect from our students



- Students must attend assembly every morning - it's a chance to informally meet with classmates and tutors.
- Students attend every class - every day as per timetable.
- Students participate in class.
- Students should submit work as directed by the teacher and on time.
- Students remember the school's Code of Behaviour remains in place. You are still at school even though school is online.
- Students do not enter class until the teacher has launched the class.

If your son is unable to attend school - please let us know on the school app, by email to his tutor or by calling the school office



BUT WHAT ABOUT ...?

The Pre Leaving Cert was due to take place prior to the February mid term. The exam papers have arrived to the school, however in consultation with the school prefects it is agreed that it is best that the Pre Leaving Cert is deferred until after the mid term. The Pre Junior Cert remains scheduled as planned for March.



Mobile Data

Some students have no option but to use their mobile phone and their prepaid data to access their school work. The images below outline how students can get data for educational purposes free of charge.

My device is broken !!

Contact the school asap we may be able to help.

How to access unlimited mobile data for your smartphone

Subject to Level 5 restrictions, mobile providers have confirmed they will continue to provide learners with affordable unlimited mobile data packages during this time.

Does this offer apply to all plans? No. Please note some prepay plans may not be included in this offer.

How can I choose this offer? All you need to do is contact your mobile provider and say you want to move to an unlimited data plan. This guide explains more.

What if I am on a contract? You are allowed to move to another plan without penalty.

Step 1: How do I get unlimited mobile data?

1 Contact your mobile provider
You should contact your mobile provider first by web chat as phone lines are busy.

Hi, I am using my mobile to complete course work. I was told I could move on to an unlimited data plan to help with my studies. Can you help me?

I was told I would not have to pay for this change. Is this correct?

NALA
The Voice of Adult Learning
National Adult Literacy Agency

Step 2: If your provider does not offer you a new plan with unlimited data, contact ComReg

2 Contact the Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg)
You can reach them by:

- Phone 01 804 9668
- Email consumerline@comreg.ie
- Webchat (This may be the easiest way)
- Go to their [Got a Question](#) webpage for more information

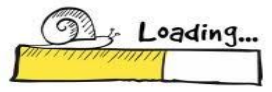
Before speaking to ComReg, have the following information ready:

- Your full name
- Your mobile provider's name
- The date you contacted your provider
- The reason your provider told you they could not offer you unlimited data

Step 3: If you need further support, ring AONTAS

3 Ring AONTAS
You can reach us at 1 800 303 669. We can help walk you through this process.

NALA
The Voice of Adult Learning
National Adult Literacy Agency



Poor Broadband

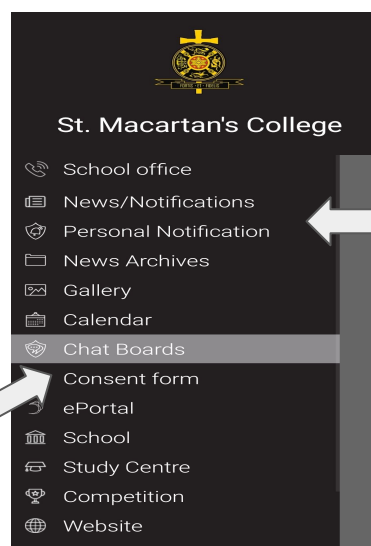
If you are experiencing difficulties accessing classes due to broadband issues - please contact your year head.



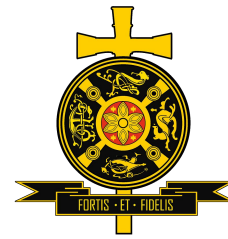
Contact details

Students have email addresses for all staff members. The school office is open for enquiries Monday to Friday at 047 81642 or by email admin@stmacartanscollege.ie

Please feel free to use the chat section on the school app. The question you ask may be the one that another parent Also wants an answer to.



Please check the notifications section on the school app regularly



St. Macartan's College was Ireland's first Google Reference School.

Like all Google Reference Schools we are recognised by Google for our outstanding use of technology to drive positive learning outcomes. We also agree to share advice, tips, and best practices, host events, and more with other primary and secondary schools from throughout Ireland.

As a Reference school, St. Macartan's College is given access to new Google for Education products prior to these products going to market. We can also avail of expert support from the Google team in Dublin and London.



Google Educator Groups

As a part of our preparations for this period of online learning, all staff and students were upgraded to the Google for Education Enterprise platform which is a much enhanced version of the product we used during the last period of remote learning.

All students are introduced to Google for Education on entering St. Macartan's as first years and use it throughout their time in the school.



The Google Suite for Education is the set of resources we use to allow us continue with your son's education during these strange times.

Google Meet is the video-communication service developed by Google and allows us to teach our students in real time remotely.



Google Classroom is the web service developed by Google for schools that aims to simplify creating, distributing, and grading assignments. The primary purpose of Google Classroom is to streamline the process of sharing files between teachers and students.



Students do not enter class until the teacher has launched the class.

Look Out For Eachother!

Students keep in touch with each other and if you feel someone needs support - let us know.