



St. Ignatius College

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Headteacher: **Mary O'Keeffe**

30 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you and your families are keeping well and safe during this extraordinary and unprecedented time. For many, there will be a lot of uncertainty but we must remember that we are a community and have one another and our faith to support us. I want you to know that whilst you haven't yet physically joined us, you are now part of our community and we are very much looking forward to welcoming your son and you as a family.

Further to the Government's announcement last week, we have to postpone any future school events including our Year 7 Welcome Event. In the meantime, I hope that this letter will serve as a virtual welcome!

We will endeavour to reschedule this event as soon as we possibly can to ensure that your son is well prepared for this exciting new step in his education. We will then welcome you more formally and you will have the opportunity to meet key Year 7 staff who will accompany your son on his academic and faith journey. We will also give you an insight into what life will be like with us at St Ignatius College.

Finally, it is important to remember that whilst we are in a very grave situation and we are hearing of tragedy each day, this will pass. There will be life after this pandemic, and children and families will return to normality. Your son will start secondary school and will be happy and will thrive. Below is a reflection that may remind us of this.

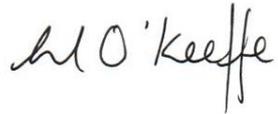
And the people stayed home.
And read books,
and listened,
and rested,
and exercised,
and made art,
and played games,
and learned new ways of being,
and were still.
And listened more deeply.
Some meditated,
some prayed,
some danced.
Some met their shadows.
And the people began to think differently.
And the people healed.
And, in the absence of people living in ignorant,
dangerous,
mindless,
and heartless ways,
the earth began to heal.
And when the danger passed,
and the people joined together again,
they grieved their losses,
and made new choices,
and dreamed new images,
and created new ways to live

and heal the earth fully,
as they had been healed.

Kitty O'Meara (retired teacher and chaplain from Madison, Wisconsin)

Please be assured that you are in our prayers at this difficult time as I am sure we are in yours. We look forward to seeing you in the future. Until then, please stay safe and well.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "M O'Keeffe". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Mary O'Keeffe
Headteacher