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14th October, 2020.

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I trust that this finds you well.

As you will be aware from the media, the NI Executive has today announced that schools and other education settings will have the half-term break extended from Monday, 19th October to Friday, 30th October (inclusive). While we would much prefer to have our young people in school, we fully respect the scientific advice which says otherwise.

In a letter to schools, the Education Minister, Mr. Peter Weir, MLA, has stated that –

“Education settings will be closed to all pupils during these two weeks including for vulnerable children and children of key workers. Schools and other settings are due to re-open on Monday 2nd November.

As this is an extension of the half-term break, it is not intended to be used for remote learning”.

While no remote learning is to take place, this does not preclude work being set for pupils for return after the break, especially those in examination classes for whom it is important to maintain the progress which has been made this term in preparation for external examinations later this academic year.

Given the short notice of this announcement, it is impossible to provide full clarity on its implications. However, I felt it was important to make you aware of the decision given the potential implications that it may have for you and your family. I will provide a further communication in advance of half-term but if anyone has any queries in the interim please speak to myself or one of the Vice-Principals.

I thank you for your continued support and co-operation as we seek to overcome the challenges which the coronavirus pandemic has created for our society.

With best wishes to you and your family,

Yours sincerely,

S.W. Black (Principal)



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