



1st May 2020

Dear Parents

As we come to the end week 6 of lockdown I'm sure you have been through a multitude of emotions and moods particularly with no end in sight. A quote from a Parent on Monday.. "I love my son with all my heart but someday when he's still in bed at 11 and grunts at me I don't like him very much, we really need a break from each other". As I write this, we have no concept of when that "break from each other" will happen. The next announcement will be May 7th and we will be in touch straight after that with further information.

As you know our schools have remained open albeit with small numbers. The phone calls which we have made to every home have given us feedback and food for thought particularly around home learning. The reality is we cannot please everyone so please be understanding if you are finding it difficult. For every Parent who requests more work there are more who ask for the work to be reduced. This is not a reflection of Parental interest or willingness to educate their children but a combination of home circumstances, family dynamics and the enthusiasm of the children. We will continue to review home learning on a weekly basis.

We have already started to plan for our return whatever that may look like. We are very much looking forward to seeing everyone again and need to find ways to overcome the challenges ahead. As you can imagine, social distancing, even with school only partly open will be difficult. Whether your child is 5 or 15, when they return to school they will want to be with their friends and trying to police this will be a real headache. I know from feedback that many of you are concerned with things like induction of reception children, those joining secondary school in September etc. we have this in hand so please try not to worry.

Returning to school will need a period of adjustment and induction for everyone as we relearn the rhythm of school and get used to having structure and routine back in our lives. Our focus will initially be on ensuring everyone feels safe and on well-being so that our children are in the right place to learn and make progress. We will provide guidance for parents and staff about returning to school. We will not be "going back to normal" but "creating the new normal" and this provides a great opportunity for schools and the government to rethink what's important in education.

In years to come COVID 19 will be written in history books as part of the school curriculum and future generations will study the impact of a world pandemic. My hope and belief is they will learn that the world became a better place, people returned to an improved society where communities looked after each other, people were more kind to each other and focused more on the important things in life. In our Xavier schools we will do our tiny bit to make this happen.

God bless you and your families

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ani Magill'.

Ani Magill
CEO Xavier Catholic Education Trust