



Newtownhamilton High School

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Friday 16th October 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

As stated in my text message on Wednesday 14th October, **the Stormont Executive has instructed all schools to close from today for 2 weeks with pupils returning on Monday 2nd November.** As a result, all activities and events planned for next week (Year 8 parent phone calls, Year 9-12 Prize Distribution, Year 8-10 Formal Assessment 1 tests and Year 11-12 revision classes) have been postponed and will be rescheduled for after the half-term holidays.

Furthermore, the guidance received from Education Minister Peter Weir clearly states that this period is *“an extension of the half-term holiday break”* and *“it is not intended to be used for remote learning”*. Based on this information, our teachers will not be providing any online learning materials next week, however **all pupils are strongly advised to use this additional time productively to catch up on any missed work and also to recap on work covered since the start of the new school year.**

It is noted that during the week beginning Monday 19th October, the Education Authority will make direct payments to parents of pupils in receipt of Free School Meals.

To conclude, I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the excellent response of our pupils to our new COVID-19 procedures since their return in August/September. Their compliance has been exemplary and this approach (along with many litres of hand sanitiser!) has ensured that we have remained ‘COVID-19 free’ with no confirmed cases within our school community.

As we enter this holiday period it is important that the responsible behaviour of our pupils continues within the local community and therefore **I appeal to all parents/guardians to ensure that their children follow Government guidance throughout the duration of our closure.**

Finally, I will be available on the school premises for the early part of next week. After this, I will be checking my emails (nmegaw549@c2kni.net) at regular intervals during the holiday period.

Stay safe.

Neil Megaw
Principal

Note: All parent/guardian home letters issued since August 2020 are available to read/download from the ‘Key Docs’ section of our recently revamped website.