

Coláiste Pobail na Mainistreach

Bóthar na Mainistreach, An Pórt Mór, Port Láirge

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

We hope you are keeping well and staying safe during this time. We know that this is an extremely challenging time for families. As a school we wanted to inform you that we are here to support your children in whatever way we can. As they are learning *English as an Additional Language* (EAL), this can pose a greater challenge to accessing the curriculum.

Please be assured that your children have the support of their EAL teacher, subject teachers, year head and the senior management team (SMT). Our EAL support teachers are available to assist with the learning needs of your children, some are hosting live lessons during their allocated class time, all are available on "chat" and in the class Team. They have put together some resources that your child may find useful when learning from home.

Microsoft Teams: All students have access to *Teams* and a school email. Every class on your child's timetable is set up on a *Team* where they can communicate with their teacher. If your child is having difficulty accessing material or completing assignments, they can communicate with their teacher on a private chat message. If they are not confident with their written English, ask them to use google translate. They can write the text in their home language and translate it into English and send it in via the *Chat* message.

YouTube: This can prove to be brilliant when it comes to accessing the curriculum or trying to get a clearer understanding of the content. Students are familiar with this platform. All they need to do is:

1. Go to www.youtube.com
2. Type in the topic they need guidance on.
3. In the video they can click 'on' and turn on subtitles.
4. Click on 'settings' and click 'subtitles'.
5. Select 'English'
6. Scroll down and click 'auto-translate' and you can choose from many different languages. This will give captions in your home language on the video and make it easier to understand the content.

Google Translate Extension: Make sure the Google Translate Extension is installed on your child's device (phone, laptop, tablet). If they have a Gmail account, they can copy and paste a chunk of text into a blank email and translate it very quickly into their home language. They can also translate web pages. This is useful if researching material for classroom based assessments (CBA) or projects.

The **Immersive Reader** is a tool on *Microsoft Teams* that can be used to aid understanding. However, I feel this only works with students with an intermediate level of the English language. Beginners don't find this useful.

The British Council Learn English website www.learnenglish.britishcouncil.org is an excellent resource to help with the four skills of English: reading, listening, speaking and writing. EAL teachers often use this in classes. It is interactive and I would highly recommend students spend at least 10 minutes a day on this to improve their English. They should start at the beginner level (A1) and work up to (C1).

ICT Support from School: If students are having difficulty with logging into Teams, using Teams and uploading work. Please contact the school at info@abbeycommunitycollege.com and we will arrange for support to be given.

Your sincerely

EAL Support Team