

25 March 2020



Dear Colleagues,

We hope you and your families continue to be safe and well in the midst of the current crisis. It is a challenging time for everyone, including our students and their parents. On behalf of the Board members and executive of KCETB we want to extend our gratitude to staff right across the organisation for focusing your efforts on ensuring that the care of our students has been at the core of our endeavours over the past two weeks. Your assistance in putting in place online teaching and learning solutions in schools and centres has been remarkable in such a short time. Your support for our students and learners during these weeks is critically important and we ask you to continue to look after the teaching, learning and pastoral care needs of our students, in the best way that you can in the time ahead.

We are all working together to remain connected in our schools, centres and offices so that we can support each other through this difficult time. We will continue to take the advice of the health authorities and are in regular contact with the DES, SOLAS, DCYA and QQI in an effort to manage the evolving situation. Our directors, our school/centre leaders, managers and our heads of sections are working hard to ensure that we continue to provide our critical public service of maintaining teaching and learning and normal service delivery in so far as is possible. Maintaining these services is our central focus in this time of crisis. Our administration and support personnel throughout the organisation are providing crucial backup for our broad range of education and training services and ensuring that the essential day to day activities are being addressed in extremely difficult circumstances. We are particularly indebted to our ICT staff who have worked tirelessly to set up remote working for staff and assist with on-line teaching and learning arrangements.

As an organisation key aspects of our work require completion at this time of year and the dedication of our administration staff in both offices has ensured that we have been able to complete these on time to date and can hopefully continue to do so. The Finance Committee and the KCETB board meetings took place by teleconference on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March respectively and our accounts for 2019 have been submitted to C&AG on time.

The valiant efforts of our dedicated staff team, the engagement with our students and the support of parents reflects the caring ethos which we seek to live out every day in our schools/centres and services in KCETB. This has been supported by the contribution of our board members who have also played a key role in assisting with this critical work.

We have put in place remote working arrangements for many staff to minimise the risk of spread of infection. Any queries to the Head Office in Carlow and our office in Kilkenny should be directed to staff's individual emails or to [info@kcetb.ie](mailto:info@kcetb.ie) which will be monitored regularly during this period.

As you are aware we all have a personal responsibility to play our part in helping to prevent the further spread of the coronavirus so we ask you to please follow the advice of the health authorities as together we strive to assist this national effort.

On behalf of the members of the Board and ourselves we wish to express sincerest gratitude to each one of you for your efforts.

Stay safe and stay connected- Ar scath a chéile a mháireann na daoine- never was this more appropriate.

Kind regards,

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Peter Cleere  
**Chairperson**

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Eileen Curtis  
**Chief Executive**