



UACHTARÁN NA hÉIREANN
PRESIDENT OF IRELAND

The Students,
Educate Together Secondary School Wicklow
Crinion Park
Wicklow Town.

19 Bealtaine, 2020.

A dhaltaí, a chairde

None of you at Wicklow Educate Together, I am sure, imagined that the first academic year of the school would turn out as it has.

Indeed, so many of us have had had our lives turned upside down. All the plans we made at the start of this year have had to be abandoned or seriously revised and we are not sure what lies ahead. In a world without COVID19 you would have been facing into a summer of sporting events, camps, trips to the Gaeltacht, holidays and hanging

around with your friends, but these have all been put on hold for the time being. You have had to find new ways of learning, of keeping active, and of keeping in touch with each other.

It has also been a worrying time for all of us. We are worried about our friends and relatives who might be particularly vulnerable to this virus. People who need to take extra care, like Ava-Li, in first year, or perhaps your grand-parents. When we are kept apart from those we care about, as we are now, it makes it even more difficult. Try to remember that this is temporary but it is up to all of us to support each other, to show solidarity and to do what we can to give each other encouragement as we journey through this pandemic. Be the best you can be for your family, your school and your community.

What I do know is that all our actions over the past two months, all the restrictions we have endured, have helped to keep the most vulnerable among us safe. You, your school and your families have all played your part. Without doubt, your actions have saved lives. For that, as President of Ireland, I thank you, but I also ask that you stick with it, as we will all be asked to do more in the weeks and months ahead.

Your teachers and parents have sought to make this time less difficult for you. Remember that this is difficult for them too so continue to be patient and kind and give them the support that they deserve.

As we near the end of the academic year, I wish all of you, your teachers and your families a most enjoyable summer. It won't be like other summers, but I urge you to make the most of it. Stay safe, and help to keep others safe. Read, spend time outdoors and enjoy the company of those around you. You will look back at the 1st year of Wicklow Educate Together as a most extraordinary one, but I am confident that the experience is one that will bring you together and strengthen your resolve for the school to grow and to flourish.

Beir beannacht don todhchaí

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael D. Higgins." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and a stylized 'H' at the end.

Michael D. Higgins
Uachtarán na hÉireann
President of Ireland