

## **CIRCULAR 90/2020: Message from the Principal to staff**

Dear Members of Staff,

I hope that this note finds you in good health.

As we start the second week of the temporary closure of MCAST, many of us have experienced challenges in trying to connect with others and keeping the pace of work as normal as possible. It has not been easy, but we have observed great solidarity and commitment between colleagues and especially between lecturers and students.

Many of you have volunteered to keep in touch with our students. You are doing so successfully while management and administrative staff as well as supporting staff members are all doing their utmost to keep the College running smoothly. This is greatly appreciated by all of us who strongly believe that MCAST is much more than a learning institution. We are also a community of workers and learners that cares for the welfare and the well-being of others.

As Principal, I am indebted to those lecturers who are using online platforms to reach so many students. I am also aware that, unfortunately, many other students, are not benefitting from virtual learning. Many of them lack internet connectivity at home and others do not own a computer or laptop. The problem will be addressed by seeking additional support from within and outside the College.

Technology is offering the opportunity to combat this challenging situation by offering platforms of communication which we must use to keep in touch with one another but more importantly, to maximise the learning experience and ensure business continuity.

I urge everyone to persevere in reaching out to all students and to alert Directors of Institutes if problems persist so that no one is marginalised

unnecessarily. Our Counselling and Support Service is also offering assistance through contact numbers which have been communicated to all students last week.

COVID-19 is changing the world. We have become aware of a drop in the levels of pollution in cities, in the sea and on the land. Nature has its own cruel and kind ways of adjusting itself to enable it to keep the planet a safe and living place for human beings. We must not miss this opportunity to rethink the way we live, the way we think and the way we communicate with others. It is time to change our mindsets. In particular, education is a vehicle which can be operated from a physical as well as from a remote environment. Naturally, nothing replaces the human contact that we all cherish. But the signs of our times are showing that there is a limit to how much we can live the way we wish without facing repercussions.

I wish to thank very warmly all lecturers who are providing an invaluable service to our students; all Management, Administrative and Support staff for their constant support and commitment.

The Principal/CEO.