

Dear Principals, teachers, colleagues and friends,

With the summer holidays in full swing, all be it in a different capacity to what we are familiar with, I would like to take this opportunity to send this message in acknowledgement of your work and dedication over the past few months, in what has been one of the most challenging school years for many decades.

While Covid-19 certainly brought with it many obstacles, challenges and hurdles, we should all feel very proud with how we met and dealt with those issues head on. The education profession can be difficult at the best of times, but when coupled with not being able to see our students face to face, everyone, students and teachers alike, were met with a brand new set of challenges and dilemmas. But, as the saying goes, every cloud has a silver lining, and we have all learned from this experience, particularly in terms of the benefits of technology in our day to day jobs.

We here at Mayo Education Centre are incredibly impressed by the many reports, stories and feedback we received in relation to the lengths teachers and indeed entire school communities went to, in order to provide opportunities for children to continue to learn during this challenging time.

I wish to thank you all for your contribution and engagement with our Live Webinars over the past few months. We had a phenomenal response to these webinars and I want to take this opportunity to thank most sincerely our staff, all of whom were working from home, on reduced hours, for their invaluable efforts in assisting with the Webinars and making them such a success.

Thanks also to our Active School Flag staff. While the schools may have been closed to footfall, the Active School Flag Team were busy insuring that the children were encouraged to remain active by liaising with schools to deliver the "Active Home Week".

As we face the uncertainty of schools reopening and the challenges that will inevitable bring, we remind you that we are here to assist in any way we can. We intend to facilitate additional Webinars in August to assist with returning to school, and with this in mind, please let us know if there are any areas in particular with which we can support you. Our website and social media pages will be updated in this regard in due course.

In relation to EPV Approved Courses, unfortunately, on receipt guidelines from the Department of Education and Skills, and taking into consideration the health and safety of our teachers, tutors and staff, all of our Face-to-Face courses are cancelled for this summer.

However, we have a variety of Online Summer EPV Courses which are currently running. Courses are €69 and will be available to book until 11th August. I want to thank all of our course authors and tutors for their commitment and dedication in relation to course content and facilitation. Thanks also to all the participants who chose an online course with Mayo Education Centre, many of whom are loyal participants who return annually, and some who were completely new to online learning. I hope you all enjoy your courses and find them beneficial, and we look forward to your continued support throughout the year.

We also welcome your feedback, so please do not hesitate to contact us with your comments, and indeed if there are any courses you would like us to consider or host in the future, please let us know. A special word of thanks to our Education Centre Staff for their unwavering support, dedication and hard work over the past number of weeks and months in relation to the administration and technical support for the online courses, and ensuring that they are a success.

Finally, as we are all being encouraged to enjoy a staycation this year, I would like to wish you all a very safe and enjoyable summer holidays.

Kind regards,

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