



# ST. LAWRENCE HIGH SCHOOL

A JESUIT CHRISTIAN MINORITY INSTITUTION

27, Ballygunge Circular Rd, Kolkata- 700019



Dear Parents,

Hope and pray that you are keeping well and safe.

I thank you for being a supportive member of the Lawrencian family and a well-wisher of the school. Thanks to your support that St. Lawrence has reached greater heights. You will be proud to know that one of our students, Samudraneel Sarkar of class 10 D won the Educate-Magis' the Global Winner of the Anne Frank Essay Contest in the "BEST ENGLISH ESSAY" category titled "The Human In Us". St. Lawrence is proud of him. There are also a number of Lawrencians who have sent their video clips on how they cope with life during lockdown. Despite all difficulties You as parents of St. Lawrence have been pillar of support to move from strength to strength. Your overwhelming support to the staff and students during the Sports Day or the School Annual day or parents' football match has been a great encouragement for teachers to give better for our students.

I also would like acknowledge the service that our teachers have been making in order to reach out to our students at this moment of crisis. One may assume that making a video clips of 10 minutes may be an easy task. But that is not the case. You can be certain that for every single video clip that the teacher has put up, there have been at least three to four takes of the same video. While making the video clip, if they find some mistakes, they have to redo it all over again. Teachers have also been innovative enough to improvise available household items to explain certain concepts to the students in the video classes. They wait for the city to fall asleep so that the noise of the surroundings does not impair the audio quality of the recordings. This is too brief an account of the unsaid struggles our teachers are enduring to cater to the needs of the students.

So far we have uploaded a phenomenal number of video files and worksheets on our school website for the benefit of the students. I'm grateful to the teachers for their hard work and I specially thank the core team members for working 24/7 to make everything run smoothly.

Some parents may be curious to know why the school is not conducting classes on a platform like Zoom or other online portals. Actually things are not as easy as they appear. Online classes are not feasible to reach out to all parents with their supporting infrastructure especially considering our parents coming from different background. A number of parents do not have laptops or a computer with proper internet wave length, very especially aggravated by Amphan cyclone. Neither can one have live online classes for primary or middle school children. It may look fancy to a few but as educationists all over the world we know that it is not suitable for children.

Moreover, conducting online classes on such platforms entails a huge cost. Just as many of you are experiencing financial stress in this lockdown, the school is also faced with many financial concerns. For example, the super cyclone Amphan has left our campus devastated. Serious damage has been caused to the school property (including electrical and hardware gadgets) and the repair work involves huge expenses. All taxes and rents also have to be paid by the school.

The school has to meet up the following expenses that has not been waived off by any authority: Building Tax, Bank EMI, staff salary, Security, maintenance expenses, school affiliation fees, fixed electricity load charges, annual maintenance contracts for lifts, water purifiers, Air conditioners, computers, CCTV and other Electrical Devices, school software AMC charges, internet lease line charges, insurance expenses, audit fees, property tax and so on.

The School is incurring the following additional Increased Expenses due to lockdown-Deferment of fees by many parents facing hardships, Covid related safety and sanitisation expenses, additional internet charges payable to teachers, enhancement of IT infrastructure cost, additional interest payable to banks on moratorium facility availed by school, etc.

No one thought of online classes as we began the academic year in the beginning of January this year. However, witnessing the crisis, the school rose up to the occasion. Online classes were not part of delivering services. But considering the scenario the school decided to maintain learning continuity for children during this lockdown period. Teachers have worked and trained hard during this period to develop and deliver online.

We are trying our best to extend all possible support to those parents who have expressed their difficulties with supporting documents. Most of you have been very cooperative and supportive to the school in this crisis driven situation. However, a few are instigating other parents and are using this lockdown as an opportunity to bargain with School Management. I earnestly request those parents not to use this lockdown as an opportunity to bargain over education. Please do not misappropriate facts and spread unnecessary discontent and confusion. St. Lawrence has always been giving the best to the students of Kolkata and will continue to do so by your help and support. I count on you, dear Parents.

I hope you will take this letter in the right spirit, abide by it and oblige me.

Keep well and stay safe.

For God and Country

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fr. Sebastian James, SJ', with a horizontal line underneath.

Fr. Sebastian James, SJ  
Principal