August 27th, 2020

Dear Parents,

I am aware that many of you are anxiously wondering how your son will return safely to school. My recent letters have outlined the efforts that we have made to make the school as safe as possible for all our school community. Minister Foley has clearly outlined the fact that it is now mandatory for all students to wear masks in school unless there are medical reasons to suggest that this is not possible. If this evidence is provided, we will allow students to wear a face visor. Masks are to be brought to school by students every day and worn as advised. We will keep a small supply of disposable masks to be made available in special circumstances. Students will be charged for these masks. Please see the link below in relation to the message from Minister Foley.

[https://www.thejournal.ie/face-masks-irish-schools-5186366-Aug2020/](https://www.thejournal.ie/face-masks-irish-schools-5186366-Aug2020/?utm_source=email)

The Irish independent has also published a guide that may be of help to some.

<https://www.independent.ie/irish-news/education/from-masks-to-covid-testing-12-things-parents-and-students-should-know-on-returning-to-school-39476624.html>

As students will be changing rooms for some or all subjects, we would also suggest that they take every precaution to protect themselves. We ill sanitise all rooms at least once every day and more in some instances. A practical solution is for students to bring a packet of disposable wipes with them to wipe down an area that they use.

We do not wish to send students home. We will do so as instructed in the interest of fairness to all and students who are not willing to co-operate with direction from staff will have to accept the consequences. Please see below the Code of Conduct amendment which is in place for the duration of the current pandemic.

We look forward to working together in the current circumstances to support all our students this year.

Yours Sincerely

Mike Carew

Michael Carew (Principal)

**Code of Behaviour Amendment**

**Re: Covid-19 Response Plan**

**August 2020**

**Amendment Context within the Covid-19 Response Plan**

Knockbeg College is committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace for all our staff and students. To ensure that, we have developed a Covid-19 Response Plan, available on [www.knockbegcollege.ie](http://www.knockbegcollege.ie).

Adherence to the Covid-19 Response Plan is required by all members of the school community. Parents / Guardians/ Students are asked to follow the public health advice and guidance, as well as any specific direction from Knockbeg College, which includes adopting good hygiene practices, such as frequent hand washing, respiratory etiquette and physical distancing to protect themselves, teachers and fellow students against infection.

Students must in particular, follow the recommendations as outlined in the Covid-19 Response Plan under:

1. Role of Parents / Guardians/ Students
2. Physical Distancing
3. Hand Hygiene
4. Respiratory Hygiene

*Failure to comply with direction from Knockbeg College regarding the recommendations outlined in the Covid-19 Response Plan will be considered a breach of the Code of Behaviour. The sanctions outlined in the Code of Behaviour may be implemented at any stage.*