August 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians

We hope that you are well and enjoying the summer as much as is possible in the present difficult circumstances.

In advance of returning to school next week the Department of Education has published set of Return to School procedures similar to last year. Minister Foley has again confirmed that each school is different, and a one size fits all approach to planning for return to school will not work, though similar principles will apply for us all. The basic principles of mask wearing, hand sanitising, social distancing and good ventilation indoors will reduce the risks involved for us all. It is important to understand that you should not send your child to school if he has any of the known symptoms as the Delta variant is very transmissible. Headache, cough, fever are common symptoms with runny nose and/or sore throat being noted for the Delta variant. If there are any symptoms, please stay at home and seek advice from your family doctor.

To accommodate the recommendations, we will have morning break at 10-20 for 1st Year, 3rd Year and Transition Year students who will have their lunch break at 12-35. 2nd Year, Leaving 1 and Leaving 11 students will have morning break at 11-00 and lunch break at 1-15. This will help with limiting the numbers on the corridors and going to the ref at any one time. In line with the advice to have the air freshened in classrooms as much as possible, we will not be keeping base classrooms for individual groups this year. Where possible, teachers will be based in the same room and students will go outside in the fresh air as they move from class to class. Lockers will be made available to students for storing books and other belongings. Access to lockers is dependant on students following the agreed procedures and taking direction from supervising staff. Any student who wishes to have access to a locker must bring €5 to Mr. Ronan our new Deputy Principal who will provide the student with his locker. All students must bring their own lock for their assigned locker. A spare copy of the key, labelled with the student’s name and class is to be given to Mr. Ronan to ensure that students will always have access to their property. School will finish at 3-50 on Monday and Wednesday and 3-10 on all other days. We may adjust closing times on Tuesday and Thursday during term depending upon the advice being offered by the Department of Education and the possible return of extra-curricular activities.

After school study will commence early in September. Payment can be made using the Easy-Payments app on our School Website. We will try and accommodate all those wishing to participate, though places are limited because of Covid-19 restrictions, with priority being given to Senior House and exam students. The ref will provide normal service with some of the tables being returned. Students can eat in the ref or on the tables outside on the colonnade. Food cannot be taken out to the pitches as we want to retain our beautiful campus without having rubbish around the pitches and the ‘touch’.

First Year students will have their induction day on Friday August 27th, having collected books on Tuesday August 24th. Please go to the gymnasium for 9-00 on Friday to meet our chaplain, your year head and class teachers. Following on from our introduction, the boys will go to a classroom with their class teachers to be introduced to our school procedures. A group of Leaving 1 students known as Meitheal Leaders will be present also. They will take the boys on a tour of the facilities and play a series of games with them in the afternoon. Please come to school in your uniform, bringing lunch, a drink and sports gear, including runners. There will be some food available for purchase in the ref. School buses will not be available until Monday August 30th.

First, Third and Leaving 11 students will attend from Monday August 30th. All students except for Transition Year students will attend from Tuesday September 1st with Transition Year students returning from Wednesday September 2nd. Our official opening of our new school will take place on Friday September 10th. Students will not attend that day unless invited to participate in the ceremony.

If you wish to read some of the information provided by the Department of Education, please click on the links below

1. COVID-19 Response Plan for the safe and sustainable operation of Post Primary Schools

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/1fdbe-covid-19-response-plan-for-the-safe-and-sustainable-reopening-of-post-primary-schools/>

2.       Assessment Arrangements for Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate Examinations 2022

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/9c82d-leaving-certificate-2022/>

1. Video advice for parents and students at different levels

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a04fc-advice-for-students-and-their-families/#returning-to-school>

1. Posters/graphics advice for parents

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a04fc-advice-for-students-and-their-families/#returning-to-school>

1. Communications to Parents regarding School Transport – SEN and Post Primary <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/64a88-school-transport/>

We look forward to meeting you all as we return to school in the safest manner possible in the coming days.

Yours sincerely



Michael Carew (Principal)