

## COVID -19

### - Back to School 2020/2021 –

### What you need to know for this year's return to school

#### Parents:

- You have received a summer information pack in June and you should proceed to return all the relevant forms and payments to us. Opening dates and uniform are as set out in the pack. Please read this pack if you have not done so.

Aug 31 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> years 9.00 am to 12.30 pm
Sept 1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup>
Sept 2 <sup>nd</sup>	All year groups

- School start and finish times remain the same. Please keep your 2m social distance when dropping and picking up your child. Encourage your child to do the same. Students will be briefed on how to maintain social distance when entering and exiting the school.
- We will keep you updated as developments arise. We are awaiting further guidance on practical classes and on the scope of syllabus considering the time students missed in school. Students must not worry about lost time in senior cycle, all students are in the same boat and the DES and SEC will advise in due course.

#### Students:

- You will wear full school uniform and black shoes. PE gear will be discussed with you on your return, as PE changing rooms will not be used due to the confined spaces. You will wear a facemask, of your choice, as long as it does not have images or logos that cause offence. Visors are not acceptable instead of a facemask but you may wish to wear one as well as a facemask. Some people with certain health issues or sensory issues may need to contact us closer to opening day to discuss exceptions or safe alternative.
- Break times and lunch times will be staggered so that you are not all off together in a crowded space. Some boys and girls will be disappointed to know that students will not be going down the village at lunchtime, ***as we are obliged to limit the movement of students in the community*** to avoid the spread of COVID-19. We may reconsider this restriction as the number of cases subside and reduce in the county/country. Therefore, bring your lunch and snacks, or arrange with the local shops.
- The volume of waste generated from paper towels, wipes, and cleaning cloths will greatly increase the cost of our waste disposal. Therefore, we are requesting that students bring lunch and snack wrappers home with them or use reusable wrappers and containers instead. You cannot share food or drinks.
- We have a water fountain for refilling bottles. It is safe to use if used correctly but wipes will be available to sanitise it before use. All water tanks in the school will be drained and rinsed thoroughly before use.
- We will introduce a new school jacket. Wear extra layers of clothing / thermal clothing / base layers under the uniform in winter. Rooms will be regularly ventilated.

- ☑ **There will be hand sanitiser at entrances/exits, outside every bathroom and in every classroom. There will be wipes for you to clean your desk, in every class. There will be additional hand washing stations as well as those in the bathrooms and practical classrooms. There will be partitions between sinks that are close together.**
- ☑ Your base class and your year group will be assigned to your own classrooms. You will move between these base rooms for some academic subjects and to practical rooms for option subjects. You will sit one metre away from the next student.
- ☑ **We will show you the entrances and exits you will need to use during the day.**
- ☑ We will teach / remind you about the symptoms of COVID -19, remind about respiratory hygiene, hand hygiene and mask wearing. We will teach you everything you need to know about the new arrangements so that you feel comfortable and safe.
- ☑ **Junior Cycle Students will get their schoolbooks on the first day back. All students will keep their books at home for a few weeks until we get used to our new routines. You will need to bring your copies, your school diary and all your own equipment as sharing is now discouraged.**
- ☑ We know that you will treat the school bus rules with great respect and care. Some students have health issues you know nothing about, they will be worried. You will need to be careful for yourself and your own family.
- ☑ **School life is made up of routines. We teach these routines every year. This year we will be changing the routines but we will still teach them. They will become familiar and comforting quickly, helping everyone to feel safer in the school environment. We look forward to meeting you all again and welcoming our new students!**