

Monday August 16th
Good afternoon parents

As you know the provisional return to school schedule is posted on the school app and website. We are very much looking forward to our students returning to school. Third year students are due to return to school on August 31st.

With the help of teachers, our incoming prefects and our ancillary staff we have made every effort to ensure that the school is prepared for reopening in as safe a manner as is possible. We all have a part to play in ensuring that the school is safe for all members of the school community and their respective families at home.

The school day for our students will be similar to last year. On arrival at school, students will be registered on the premises using a facial recognition system. They will also have their temperature checked as a part of this system. Student arrival at school will be monitored by members of staff to ensure the efficacy of this process. It is imperative that students are not sent to school if they are feeling unwell, especially if they have any Covid 19 symptoms. If there is a concern regarding a student's temperature at school, the student's temperature will be taken a second time and if a concern persists, parents will be contacted.

Students will continue to enter the school using the main front door and the door at the back of the school only. This is to ensure the monitoring of persons on the premises. For parents who drive their sons to school it is preferable that their son is dropped at the newly extended drop off point at the bottom of the school avenue or **at the gate** on the Glaslough road. When the weather is inclement, parents may continue to drop students at the front door of the school.

As you know we have made special arrangements for students who cycle to school. The school encourages students to cycle to school where possible. A cycle to school initiative is available to our students. If you would like to express an interest in this [please follow this link](#).

Parents are asked to limit their visits to the school. Parents are welcome to contact the school at any time during the school day by email, via the app or by phone. Your son's class tutor will be in contact with you by email in the early days of term. This is simply to establish contact and to invite you to maintain regular contact between home and school. This will be particularly important if your son is struggling in any way with the return to school and the new normal that will present itself in the coming weeks. Parents are also encouraged to contact our Guidance Counsellors if you feel that your son has particular or additional concerns about his return to school.

The school's administration charge for third years is €165 and may be [paid by following this link](#) (Please ensure you include your full name when paying) or by contacting the office by phone.

The administration charge for third years includes;

- Postage/communication/stationery
- Student insurance (24 hour cover 365 days a year)
- Pre-Examination Fee (first installment)
- School App and notification service
- School Capital Development Contribution
- Contribution to the day- to-day running of the school.

A COVID 19 Addendum was added to the school's Code of Behaviour. This is available to view on the school app and website. As you will see, it is simply the measures introduced to the school to help protect the health and wellbeing of the school community and that of our respective families at home. This addendum forms part of our Code of Behaviour with immediate effect and is subject to change, depending on its efficacy on a daily basis at school.

Students will be given snoods (face coverings) on their first day at school. All members of the school community must wear a face covering inside. A reminder that black shoes form part of our school uniform. **Runners or sports shoes are not permitted.**

The canteen will be available to students during the mid morning break and at lunchtime. Social distancing protocols will be in place in the canteen also.

Unfortunately students will not be in a position to share books at school. To avoid students congregating in the social area and on corridors, students will not at this stage be in a position to access school lockers. This will be reviewed in the coming weeks. As a result students and teachers will discuss what books, note books copies etc. will have to be taken to school on a daily basis. Students may access their school books on a digital device.

The school is doing everything in our power to ensure that your son's return to school is a safe one. We also know that you will help us. Contingency arrangements will be in place if for whatever reason, school has to close again and students are forced to remain at home. This we hope will not happen, however we have to be prepared for all eventualities.

The school has introduced a new school communication service for parents called Compass. This facility will be available to download prior to your son's return to school. Information on Compass is [available at this link](#). Our current app will be discontinued from August 31st.

I know that third year can be a challenging time for students and their parents / guardians. If there is anything that you would like to discuss with me regarding your son's return to school, feel free to contact me at the school. Similarly, if there is anything you would like to discuss during the year, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Is mise, le gach dea ghúí

Raymond McHugh
Principal