



Coláiste Iognáid S.J.

Bóthar na Mara, Gaillimh

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12th August 2020

Dear Parents & Guardians,

I hope this email finds you and your families well.

We are now entering the next phase of this public health crisis. Amid Covid 19 uncertainty, as a school we would like to pay tribute to the many dedicated members of our community who continue to work diligently on the frontline during the time. I am also conscious that people have suffered personal loss through bereavement and illness, and we keep you in our prayers.

Teachers and support staff are busy getting ready for reopening. The roadmap issued by the Department of Education and Skills places many challenges on schools. We are working diligently to follow all the guidance, in order to ensure a safe environment for all members of our community.

On a whole school level, the students will experience the following:

1. A revised timetable to allow for student-based classrooms and to minimise movement around the school.
1. Staggered lunch and break times
1. Restrictions on numbers in the canteen area
2. Class groups are being reconfigured in line with DES recommendations
1. Students will not have access to lockers
2. All students will be required to wear masks as per DES recommendations

In order to allow for staff training and to ensure each student becomes familiar with the new systems, we are also adjusting our start dates. The new arrangements are as follows:

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--------------|
| Wednesday August 26 th | Staff Training | 8.55 – 4.00 |
| Thursday August 27 th | Staff Training | 8.55 – 4.00 |
| Friday August 28 th : | 1 st years only (with their mentors) | 9.30 - 12.35 |
| Monday August 31 st : | 1st years & 3rd years only | 9.30 - 12.35 |
| Tuesday September 1 st : | 2nd years and 6th years only | 9.30 - 12.35 |
| Wednesday September 2 nd : | Transition years & 5 th years only | 9.30 – 12.35 |
| Thursday September 3 rd : | All Students | 8.55 – 3.05 |

Due to Covid-19 Restrictions visitors to the school need to be limited. For this reason, all visitors must **pre-arrange an appointment through the Office**. The reopening of schools poses many challenges for the school, equally I am sure, it raises anxiety in some families. If the student in your house is in a vulnerable category or is unable to wear a face mask, please contact the office as soon as possible.

We are entering a school year like no other. It is essential that should a teacher or a student display any symptoms linked to the coronavirus that they **do not come to school**. Staying home, can prevent spreading the virus to others in the school community. Your cooperation with these matters is vital, to give us the best chance of remaining open. Ní neart go cur le chéile.

As mentioned in my previous correspondence we will be using the Compass Student Management system this year. All future communications will be via the Compass App. Details are attached to this email. You will receive another email in the coming days which will contain your unique username and temporary password.

Finally, I want to thank you for all the messages of support we received over the past number of months. In the absence of face-to-face contact with students, teachers were energised by your kind words and gratitude.

Best wishes

David O'Sullivan