



5th January 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy New Year and we hope you had an enjoyable break. As you will be aware, the Government confirmed yesterday that all schools will reopen as scheduled and we look forward to welcoming students and staff back tomorrow, Thursday, 6th January 2022. We wish to highlight some key messages issued earlier today from the Department of Education and Public Health;

- Schools have been asked to make sure all staff and students are aware not to attend school if they have any symptoms of Covid-19 infection.
- Symptom profiles are available here: <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/symptoms/overview> and public health advises parents to take a precautionary approach, particularly for children less able to articulate their symptoms, that if a child appears unwell, observe them at home and contact their GP as appropriate.
- Schools have been asked to remind all staff and students that if they have been told by the HSE services that they are a close contact of a case of Covid-19, they need to adhere to the advice on the HSE website in relation to restricted movements and testing. It is important that anyone who has been identified as a close contact, is very aware of Covid-19 symptoms, and isolate and undergo testing should they develop any symptoms.
- In the event that a Post-Primary student tests positive for COVID-19, they will be contact traced by the National Contact Tracing Team, who will contact them and ask them to identify their close contacts. The student who tested positive will have to isolate for 10 days from the day their symptoms started or for 10 days from the day they had the positive PCR test. The student can return to school after this isolation period, provided they do not have a fever/temperature during the last 5 days of their isolation period.
- Schools have been asked to ensure all staff and students are reminded of the importance of abiding by the national public health measures currently in place at all times e.g. vaccination (including boosters), social distancing, use of face masks, hand hygiene, ventilation and minimising social contacts.

We will continue to do our very best to support students' learning and wellbeing over the coming weeks and months. For health and safety reasons:

- extracurricular activities are suspended until Covid rates in the community have decreased
- all students will be outdoors at break and lunch times, please dress appropriately, heavy winter coats with a hood are beneficial
- windows will be open for ventilation so please dress appropriately, scarves and layers are beneficial
- students must remember to bring hand sanitiser and use it regularly and wear a clean mask daily
- we ask that students avoid congregating before or after school and remain masked and socially distanced as much as possible
- visiting the school is by appointment only

In the event of any unprecedented circumstances, including high numbers of staff absences or other Covid-19 related circumstances, we may have to ask that some classes remain at home for short periods. We will implement emergency remote teaching and learning plans if deemed necessary.

We are confident that the school community will pull together and support each other through the challenging weeks ahead.

We wish you a happy and safe 2022,

Best regards,



**Paula Mulhall**  
Principal



**Brian O'Malley**  
Deputy Principal

