

10-08-20

Beatha agus sláinte chugaibh.

I hope that you are all staying well as we progress towards re-opening the college.

I am writing to keep you as informed as possible as to preparations we are making to re-open in September. This is the first “Covid 19” bulletin but I will write to you every week from now on until we are open.

At this stage, lots of advice has issued from the government | [Leagan Gaeilge](#) | [English Version](#) | but the conclusion is that we are doing all we can to reduce risk, prepare the school and put a response plan in place. This will allow us to re-open more or less on time in early September.

To date we have achieved the following:

- We are reasonably happy that we have enough space to cater for everybody once school resumes but with some changes required.
 - Everybody will be required to wash their hands (or at least sanitise them) on arrival and departure from the school. Extra washing facilities are being installed to enable this.
 - If the new timetable works out, each class group will be assigned a “home classroom” for the core subjects. They will then move room for optional (practical) subjects only, thus reducing movement and risk.
 - The school day will be adjusted to cater for social distancing (break and lunch times will be staggered).
 - Students will be expected to remain with their class groups for the day and to avoid mixing with other groups.
 - Students will be expected to avoid gathering in big groups at break times.
 - A face covering will be required at certain times during the day if and when social distancing cannot be maintained. **The arrangements for this will be explained clearly in good time before we re-open.**

Personal responsibility to comply with all arrangements will be a crucial factor in opening and successfully remaining open.

At the moment, we are working on:

- A new, suitable timetable to take account of the changes.
- Planning for break times (that enough space be made available to cater for the numbers eating lunch). The assembly hall will become a canteen space only.
- Refurbishing and restructuring rooms to implement social distancing.
- The installation of hot water and extra washing facilities in the school building.
- The provision of sufficient cleaning and cleaning equipment to maintain a safe, clean learning environment.

- Signage, information and guidance for the school community.

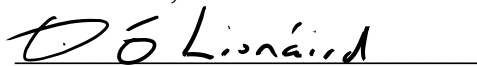
Overall, we are doing our best to reduce the risk posed by the virus and will have to remain flexible and open to change as things progress.

Please get in touch if you have concerns, suggestions or ideas. I may not be able to reply to you immediately, but I will if urgent. Otherwise, I will take your contribution on board and look to answer you in due course.

I will be in touch again on Friday (14th) to inform you of the usual matters prior to re-opening. I am very confident that if we work together and keep vigilant, we will be in a position to open and most importantly stay open on a sustainable basis.

Ar scáth a chéile a mhairimid agus éireoidh linn, táim cinnte de!

Tabhair aire,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dónal Ó Lionáird', is written over a horizontal line.

Toirdealbhach Ó Lionáird

Príomhoide