

21-08-20

Beatha agus sláinte chugaibh.

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

This is the latest information as we move towards welcoming back the students to Coláiste Ghobnatan. I can understand if there is worry among you but we are doing our best to get things ready for a full opening despite the challenges. Here are the latest, more detailed arrangements.

Arrangement for the school community:

Morning

- All students will be required to maintain hand hygiene throughout the day. We have installed 5 new sinks externally which will be available at all times. Training will be provided in handwashing and sanitisation of hands during induction on Day 1.
- All classes will have a “Home Classroom” and will be required to go straight there on arrival in the morning. We will no longer be able to cater for gathering as before. Classrooms will be fully supervised up until classtime.
- Classrooms have been reconfigured to cater for social distancing and as mentioned in a previous update, students will remain in the “home classroom” for most of the day, apart from practical classes. We don’t have much room to spare and so will make use of the assembly hall and some offices to cater for small class groups (learning support etc.).

Face Coverings

- Face coverings (masks) will be mandatory when 2 metre social distancing is not possible, In other words, a mask will be required at all times bar in very small class groups and assuming we get full buy-in from all, at lunch and break times outside in the yard.

The only exception to this would be if a doctor provides a certificate stating that a student cannot wear a mask for medical reasons. Please get in touch if you have a query relating to this matter.

- On arrival, students will be provided with a “starter pack” containing two disposable masks, a visor, hand sanitiser and a packet of wipes. Parents will have to purchase a supply of cloth masks for everyday use. These should be plain and appropriate for the school setting. In the event that a student forgets their mask, we will provide one.

Break and Lunchtimes

- The school day will be adjusted to cater for social distancing (break and lunch times will be staggered, see example below):

9:00-9:40	Classes	All groups	
9:40-10:20	Classes	All groups	
10:20-10:35	Early Break	Group X	Years 1,3,5 e.g.
10:35-11:15	Class	Group X	Years 1,3,5 e.g.
11:00-11:15	Late Break	Group Y	Years 2,4,6 e.g.
12:35-1:15	Early Lunch	Group Y	Years 2,4,6 e.g.
1:15-1:50	Class	Group Y	
1:15-1:50	Late Lunch	Group X	Years 1,3,5 e.g.
1:50-15:50	Clasees	All groups	

- One senior group (from years 4/5/6) will go to eat their lunch at the Abbey Hotel each day, bar Wednesday when school finished at 1:15 pm. (We have secured private space there.) It is expected that students will bring their lunch with them.
- The assembly hall will be used solely at break and lunch times as a canteen. Groups will rotate after 15 minutes (clean down, eat lunch, clean down, vacate).

These arrangements will be fully explained during induction.

- Sandwiches and rolls will be available to order from Siobhán Uí Luasa (details during induction). Unfortunately, the water fountains will no longer be in use so students will have to bring their own supply of water.

Physical Education:

- As the changing rooms will not be in use, students will be permitted to wear their tracksuits on PE day.

In case of sickness (Covid 19):

- The guidelines are available at the link but more will be forthcoming soon: [Leagan Béarla Leagan Gaeilge](#). These will be implemented in full and we are fully equipped to do so.

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 (and will continue to explore solutions and improvements):

- Storage solutions for students (the lockers will not be in use for the foreseeable future).
- The students' view on re-opening (Microsoft Teams meetings will kickstart this next week).
- Covid 19 guidance and training for students and teachers.
- A decision on the provision of evening study has not yet been made. This will be discussed with senior students as soon as possible.

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. Once again, please get in touch if you have concerns, suggestions or ideas.

Meetings are being arranged for next week for the following groups:

Monday 24th: 1st Year Parents and students 7:00 p.m. (an invitation will issue on Monday morning)

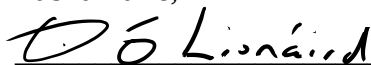
Tuesday 25th: 2nd and 3rd Year students 2 p.m. (invitation to issue on Monday).

Wednesday 26th: 4th, 5th, 6th Year students 2 p.m. (invitation to issue on Monday).

I will be in touch again soon with more information but in the meantime, my sincere thanks for your support on our journey to re-open.

Ar scáth a chéile a mhairimid!

Tabhair aire,

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Toirdealbhach Ó Lionáird

Príomhoide