



Coláiste Bríde

Templeshannon, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.

11th June 2021

Dear Students and Parents,

As we reach to the end of this final term and begin the process of planning for 2021/2022, I would like to thank you for all your support over this past academic year.

Although this year has proven to be very difficult at times, we are exceptionally proud of the cooperation, effort and resilience shown by our entire school community, especially during the period of remote learning from January to March.

Now it is time for a well-earned rest from study, but before the holiday fever truly descends upon us, we would like to inform you about some important administration and school planning details for next year:

Administration

- End of year reports are available as of Monday, 14th of June through VShare:
<https://colaistebrideenniscorthy.vsware.ie>.
- Our online Book Rental Application form should be completed before July 5th, [click on this link to access the form](#).
- Book lists for all years are available on our website at www.colaistebride.ie.
- Book Rental Fees for next year's Second and Third Years should be paid online through <https://colaistebrideenniscorthy.vsware.ie>.
- Book Rental Fees can also be paid in cash through our school office before June 30th.
- Provisional return dates to school, **(these dates are subject to change)**:

Thursday 26 th August:	First Years only
Friday 27 th August:	First & Fourth Years only
Wednesday 1 st Sept:	Fifth and Sixth Years only
Thursday 2 nd Sept:	Second & Third Years only
Friday 3 rd Sept:	All year groups



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1 Hour Classes

We are delighted to share an important update to our school timetable. From September 2021 Coláiste Bríde will move to 1 hour classes on a trial basis. This decision to trial 1 hour classes for one school year will allow us to explore additional learning methodologies, and enable student based active learning to be facilitated.

The feedback from neighbouring schools where the 1 hour timetable has already been implemented indicated that the move has been overwhelming successful.

The following have been identified as key strengths of this approach:

- Allows for broader subject choice
- Less homework/less book load /less stress for students and teachers
- Less complex timetables – easier to plan for 6 classes per day
- More time in each class to develop teaching and learning, creating a more interactive classroom
- Easier to facilitate Covid-19 health and safety procedures.

A maximum of 6 lessons per school day will enable the students to be better organised, take responsibility for their own learning, have greater time to study at home due to a more structured homework schedule and be ultimately less stressed.

Our daily timetable will need to be changed slightly to facilitate the move to longer class times; our school day will now end at 2:45pm on Thursday and Friday.

It is our intention to review the impact of introducing a 1 hour timetable before the end of 2021/2022 school year before deciding whether or not to make this a permanent change.

P.E. Uniform

The continuing Covid-19 restrictions have meant that students do not have access to P.E. changing facilities, but instead are permitted to wear their sports gear to school on P.E days. As a result, and taking into account feedback from our student surveys, we are introducing a more streamlined form of P.E. uniform - a quarter-zip top designed with our school crest paired with black or navy leggings/track suit bottoms. Students will continue to be permitted to wear their P.E gear to school on P.E. days **only** but it must be the correct uniform.

Bodibro (www.bodibro.ie) are supplying the quarter-zip tops. They will open an online shop for Coláiste Bríde from **the 22nd of June** until the **5th of July**. Once the shop is up and running we will send you all necessary links. Bodibro will also visit the school for three days to allow for sizing, questions



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about fitting, prices and delivery etc. The sizing days are the **22nd, 23rd** and the **24th of June** from 10:00am – 15:00pm. The sizing shop will be situated in our sports hall building. More details to follow.

The quarter-zip will cost €35 with a free school crested facemask with each order (quarter-zip and training jersey sizes will go from Age 11 up to 3X Large).

- An **optional** school crested training jersey will cost €35.
- Bodibro are offering a bundle price for both at €65 with a facemask
- School crested facemask costs €5.00
- All prices for the quarter-zip and jersey include initials
- The quarter-zip does not replace the school jumper, it can only be worn on P.E. day
- The quarter-zip is compulsory for all year groups next year apart from Sixth Years

All other Coláiste Bríde school uniform items are available to buy at Matt Mernagh Schoolwear, 1 Slaney st Enniscorthy Co. Wexford, tel: (053)9233123

Lockers

As part of our school's Strategic Plan we are upgrading our school lockers to new more modern, spacious model next year. This upgrade will include a locker management system which provides a more hygienic and secure system for students to access. The lockers are covered in an anti-bacterial coating and a heavy duty combination lock will replace the need for keys. Students will no longer need to supply their own lock. Each student will have a unique and secure code. The annual cost for the rental of a locker and supply of a school journal will be €40. In August you will receive details of locker and journal payment included with the administration fees normally paid before return to school.

Covid-19 Procedures

We are currently awaiting Department of Education Guidance for Covid-19 for schools reopening next year. As it stands, we will continue to implement all Public Health measures as advised for the health and safety of all. We will keep you updated on any changes that may be implemented. The most recent DES guidance has recommended the placement of carbon dioxide monitors in classrooms to ensure correct levels of ventilation. These monitors will be in place for our August reopening.

Finally, I want to sincerely thank all parents for your efforts and support over the past year. I know that the period of school closure and remote learning was both stressful and frustrating at times,



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especially where parents were still trying to meet continuing work and care commitments. Thank you also for your feedback and your positivity and support of our teachers.

I also want to acknowledge the work of the staff and teachers of Coláiste Bríde for keeping the show on the road. It hasn't been easy, and we've learned a lot.

We look forward to seeing you all in the new academic year. Wishing you all a happy and safe summer.

Yours sincerely,

Kiera O'Sullivan

Principal