



Coláiste Bríde

Templeshannon, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.

15th June 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are looking forward to welcoming your daughter to Coláiste Bríde in August. It has been a very challenging time for everyone but particularly so for 6th class pupils whose final year in primary school and many of the milestones that come have part of that have been so interrupted. However, I can assure you that we will be working as hard as we can over the coming months to ensure that there is as smooth a transition as possible from their primary school to life in Coláiste Bríde.

Before the holidays are upon us, we would like to inform you about some important administration and school planning details for next year:

Administration

- Our online Book Rental Application form should be completed before the extended deadline of July 5th, [click on this link to access the form](#).
- Book lists for all years are available on our website at www.colaiشتهbride.ie.
- Book Rental Fees can be paid online through <https://colaiشتهbrideenniscorthy.vsware.ie>.
- Book Rental Fees can also be paid in cash through our school office before June 30th.
- Provisional return dates to school:

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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P.E. Uniform

From next September we are introducing a new P.E. uniform - a quarter-zip top designed with our school crest paired with black or navy leggings/track suit bottoms. Students will be allowed to wear their P.E gear to school for the full day on P.E. days **only** but please note that it must be the correct uniform. No other style of school hoodie or top are permitted to be worn.

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 online shop is up and running we will send you all necessary links through VSware. Bodibro will also visit the school for three days next week to allow for sizing, questions about fitting, prices and delivery etc. The sizing days are the **22nd, 23rd and the 24th of June** from 10:00am – 16:00pm. The sizing shop will be situated in our sports hall building. *More details to follow on VSware.*

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 First Years

All other Coláiste Bríde school uniform items are available to buy at Matt Mernagh School Wear, 1 Slaney St. Enniscorthy Co. Wexford, Tel: (053)9233123. Please see details on our school website (click on this link) [Uniform - COLÁISTE BRÍDE SECONDARY SCHOOL \(colaistebriide.ie\)](http://www.colaiastebriide.ie) .

Lockers

We are introducing a new school locker system from September. This upgrade will include an annual locker management system which provides a more hygienic and secure system for students. The lockers are covered in an anti-bacterial coating and a heavy-duty combination lock will replace the need for keys. 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.



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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. Monday to Wednesday will remain unchanged at 3:45pm. School will begin each morning at 8:45am.

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.

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.



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Finally, on behalf of our school, I thank you for choosing Coláiste Bríde for your daughter's secondary education and for your continued support of her education journey. We will be in touch in August with details of your daughter's First Year induction programme. In the meantime, if you have any worries, concerns or questions please contact us.

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

Yours sincerely,

Kiera O'Sullivan

Principal