



Coláiste Bríde

Templeshannon, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.

8th October 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are now well settled back into school and students have adapted extremely well to the new school routines. I would like to say thank you and well done to all of our parents/guardians, students and staff for the diligence and care that is being shown regarding the health and safety procedures required to keep Coláiste Bríde open.

Following on from our Covid-19 safety review I would like to inform you of the following updates to our procedures:

Sanitising Desks

We will be installing self-disinfecting Anti-Microbial Healthy Desk Pads on each student desk in the school. The desk pads kill 99.95% of all known germs, fungi and the corona family virus on contact. When the desk pads are installed students will not be required to spray down their desks. However, we will give each student **one** packet of antiviral wipes to wipe down their chair at the end of class. When that pack of wipes is empty, and as is the case in many other schools, parents will then be expected to provide students with packets of wipes for the rest of the school year. Additional packets of wipes will be available to purchase from the school office.

Room Ventilation

The Public Health and Department of Education advice for schools makes specific reference to ventilation practices within schools including that the opening of doors and windows should be used to increase natural ventilation. We understand that as the weather gets colder this will become harder for teachers and students, however as adequate ventilation reduces the spread of Covid-19 in indoor settings, windows, and in some rooms, doors will have to be kept open. Obviously as the seasons change, heating will be used to counter this measure. We would encourage students to wear extra layers under their uniforms on colder days. As our Junior students are timetabled in the same room for longer periods, we will be asking that all class tutors of 1st, 2nd and 3rd Years classes rotate the classroom seating regularly to ensure that the same students are not seated under open windows all winter.

Exiting the school

To reduce the large numbers of students leaving the school at one time and to stop the build-up of students at the school gates, 1st and 3rd Year students will finish school a couple of minutes earlier than all other year groups to exit the building safely.



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Covid-19 Awareness Campaign

Over the coming weeks we will begin a Covid-19 awareness campaign to remind students of the rationale and importance for following both school and public health guidelines. This will be taught in the student's pastoral care classes. We will be asking your assistance in reinforcing these messages at home.

ICT

As a school community we have been upskilling in Office 365. Teachers have been using Microsoft Teams/OneNote widely with their classes and at this stage students in all year groups should by now be members of their class team. We would ask you at home to familiarise yourself with Microsoft 365 ([click on this link for an Office 365 Parents' Guide](#)) and if you have any issue, please get in touch and we can offer support. While these programmes may be used in the case of self-isolation/school closure, this is not their only intended use. We have developed our school's Digital Strategy and use ICT regularly as a methodology in our teaching and learning.

Term 1/Christmas Exams/Parent Teacher Meetings

As it will not be possible to conduct House Exams as we would usually do our Term 1 exams will take place in class time between Monday, 23rd of November and Thursday, 3rd of December. Although the setting of these exams will not be as formal as in previous years, they will be an important assessment of the learning that has taken place so far this year and I would encourage you to support your daughter to prepare properly for these exams. As with all House Exams results will be part of your daughter's permanent academic record in the school and exam reports will be issued to parents through VShare before the Christmas school closure. As advised, we will not be able to hold our Parent Teacher meetings term however, a detailed report of your daughter's progress will be outlined in her exam report.

With Covid-19 case numbers rising and as we move towards further restrictions, I would also like to take this opportunity to ask that all parents/guardians reinforce the importance of current public health messaging by ensuring your daughter/ward reducing their amount of contacts in a bid to keep everyone safe and our schools open.

With this in mind I would ask all parents/guardians to talk to their daughters about following all HSE guidelines not only in school, but also when waiting for buses, lifts home, or when going into town. Students are following the regulations around wearing face masks in school however I would ask you to please remind your daughters that they still need to practise social distancing and to wear their mask when outside school. Kindly remind them that their actions can affect so many other people



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and not just themselves. Therefore, we ask all parents/guardians to work with us to encourage your daughters to follow the guidelines set out by HSE, not only in school but outside school as well. We must exercise caution and be calm and consistent in our messaging. We have a duty of care to all in our buildings and those outside of school. We ask you to emphasise that students must follow guidelines and show personal responsibility by ensuring their own physical distancing, correct wearing of face covering, hand hygiene and respiratory procedures, not just in school, but outside school also. Everyone has responsibility to combat this virus. **We need your support to encourage all of our students to follow the guidelines at all times.**

I thank you all for your cooperation, understanding and support. It has not been easy for any of our school communities. The start to the school year has been a strange one but by working together, by cooperating and helping each other we can achieve even more. On behalf of the Coláiste Bríde school community, I thank you for your cooperation and wish you all the very best in the months ahead for this academic year.

Yours sincerely,

Kiera O'Sullivan

Principal