



Notes for Students About the Return to School

Arrival in the Mornings

- If you are brought to school by car, please do not drive to the entrance of the school. This causes too much congestion and will not allow for sufficient social distancing. Please get dropped a short distance from the school and walk to your designated entrance.
- Each year group will have a specially designated entrance to the school rather than use the front entrance. Please see the school app and website for details of the specific entrances.
- When you come into the building, ensure your mask is on; use the hand sanitiser at the entrance; and go straight to your base classroom. You cannot sit around the corridors.
- Once in your classroom, you must stay there, you cannot go walking around the school. We need to minimise interaction among students from different classes and year groups.
- Unfortunately, students cannot have lockers this year. Junior and TY students can leave books in their base classrooms. We will discuss various options with 5th & 6th Years when they return.

Classroom Organisation

- Junior & TY students will have a base classroom for all subjects other than options and subjects where you are banded. 5th & 6th Year students will change rooms for each class due to the nature of Leaving Cert class groupings. Please see the school app and website for details of the base classrooms.
- Students will have designated seats in the class which they must sit at. These seats are laid out so each student is 1m apart from their closest classmates. This distance must be maintained by students throughout the school day.
- Specialist rooms are still in use i.e. Art, Computer, Home Economics, Music, and Science.
- Rosary Hall will be used as three classrooms to provide space for appropriate social distancing among students.
- The corridors will have a one-way system which students must follow during change of class, before and after school and at break and lunch times. A social distance of 2 meters must be maintained on the corridor between students who are not in your class group. A 1-meter distance must be kept with students in your class group. There will be signage on floors to remind students of social distancing

- Face masks must be worn in all settings where there is not a distance of at least 2 meters from others, so they must be worn by students in class. In exceptional circumstances face visors may be worn e.g. by a person with breathing difficulties, skin medical issues, or any person who has special needs and who may feel upset or very uncomfortable wearing the face covering, for example persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities, mental health conditions, sensory concerns or tactile sensitivity.
- Students must bring their own face masks to school and must follow proper face covering etiquette.
- Students cannot share classroom resources such as pens, calculators, rulers etc.
- Individual tables and chairs will have to be disinfected at the start and end of each students' session in that classroom.
- Teachers are very aware that students missed out on work at the end of last year and they will take into account the need to catch up on that work.

Morning Break

- There will now be two break times to minimise the number of students around the school: at 10:20-10:30am and 11-11:10am.
- Students will go outside to get fresh air during this break - weather permitting.
- Students may use the bathrooms at breaktime but must not congregate at them. Teachers will be more flexible around students using the toilet during class if necessary.
- We recently had new water dispensers installed around the school but these cannot now be used so students will need to bring their own water each day.

Lunch Time

- There will be two lunch breaks each day: 12:30-1:10pm and 1:10-1:50pm.
- Students will eat their lunch at their desks for the first part of the lunch break, then leave their classrooms and go outdoors for fresh air - weather permitting.
- It is not possible to operate the canteen this year so students must bring their own lunch.
- Senior students leaving the school during lunchtime must use the door they used that morning to both leave and return.

End of School Day

- Class dismissal times will be staggered to allow for physical distancing.
- Students will leave the school by the door they came in that morning.
- Students should avoid congregating at the front of the school.
- Students waiting for busses can no longer wait in the school building, they must leave the school at the end of the school day.

Personal Hygiene

- Students and staff must follow good **respiratory hygiene**. This means covering your mouth and nose with a tissue or your bent elbow when you cough or sneeze, then disposing of the used tissue immediately and safely into a nearby bin.
- **Hand hygiene** is vitally important and students must regularly wash their hands or use hand sanitisers. They should use the washing techniques displayed on posters around the school. Hand hygiene should be practiced:
 - on arrival at school
 - before eating or drinking
 - after using the toilet
 - after a cough or sneeze (into tissue or elbow)
 - after playing outdoors
 - when hands are physically dirty

Face Coverings

- Please ensure have a minimum of 2-3 cloth face coverings for each school day as a fresh mask should be used each time one is taken off.
- You will need a zip lock plastic bag in which to store used masks.
- Re-usable masks are preferable.
- Masks are not fashion accessories and should not contain any logos, images or text that could be deemed inappropriate for school or offensive.

Cleaning Regime

- We will have a new cleaner in the school throughout the school day to disinfect all touch points, refill sanitisers etc.
- Students must disinfect their desk, chair and shared equipment (e.g. computer keyboard, science equipment etc.) at the start and end of each session.

PE Classes

- We are unable to use the changing rooms in the PE hall, so students must wear their PE kit into school on the day they have PE. For junior students this is the school tracksuit, while for senior students, the sports worn around the school during the day must be loose fitting and appropriate for school (not leggings).

Extra-Curricular Activities

- We are hoping that extra-curricular activities can recommence but we will be guided by the HSE guidelines on sporting activities.

After-School Study

- After-school study will go ahead this year. Details of this will be provided to students when they return to school.

Plan for Online Learning

- We are consulting with students, staff and parents to put in place a plan for online learning in the hopefully unlikely event that the school must close again.
- Teachers will work with students in the first few weeks to coordinate best procedures for using Google Classroom.

School Attendance

- School attendance is vitally important for student progress and students should only miss time when absolutely necessary.
- If students are displaying any symptoms of Covid-19, they must not attend school, but rather phone their doctor and follow HSE guidelines on self-isolation. The symptoms to watch out for are: high temperature; cough; shortness of breath or breathing difficulties; loss of smell, of taste or distortion of taste

Personal Responsibility

- Every student has a duty to act responsibly to ensure their own health and safety and that of those around them. We have the utmost faith in the maturity and sense of responsibility of all our students.