



Dear students, parents and guardians,

I hope that you are all keeping well and again I would like to commend all our students for their dedication to their online learning over the past number of months. Congratulations also to the students and staff that participated in the virtual Camino walking from Carrigaline to Kinsale and back, raising €1000 for Cork Simon Community.

As you are aware, it has been announced that all students will be returning to school on Monday 12th April. Prior to this return I would like to update you as follows:

We would ask students not to congregate in groups on the way into school or at the school gates. School will be open from 08.40 and students should make their way straight to their first class (we will be reverting to our original school timetable, classes will be held in the classrooms as per your original timetable). We ask that students avoid leaving the school at lunch time if at all possible. At break times, if the weather is poor and students cannot go outside, students will have the use of their various social areas in the building. We ask that the space in the building be used and students spread themselves out in the social areas. We must remind students about the importance of following public health advice around social distancing. Please be aware that windows and doors will be open in all classrooms to ensure adequate ventilation. Whilst the heating will be on, it is reasonable to expect that on certain days the school will be cold, so please wear layers of clothing.

Regular school rules in relation to the wearing of school uniform and face coverings will apply. It is our expressed preference, in line with HSE and Department of Education guidelines, that everyone attending school should wear a face mask. Masks must be worn properly so that the nose and mouth are covered at all times.

In December we allowed a derogation on the wearing of our school uniform due to the cold weather. At the time we made it clear that this would last only until March 26th. When students return to school on April 12th they are expected to wear the appropriate school uniform each day. Extra layers can be worn under the uniform if required. The wearing of jackets or non-uniform jumpers over the uniform will again not be permitted once we return after the Easter break. The usual sanctions will apply to any students failing to follow the school Code of Behaviour on uniform. We also take this opportunity to remind all students, parents and guardians about our basic school rules prohibiting students from using mobile phones in school, and also our requirement that students would have a natural hair colour.

**Important:**

It is imperative to remember the following at all times:

- If you are returning for the first time since Christmas (all students except for 5th and 6th years) a Health Declaration Form will be forwarded to you from the school. This must be completed before any return to school.
- Students should self-isolate or restrict their movements at home if they display any signs or symptoms of Covid-19 and contact their family doctor to arrange a test.
- Students should NOT return to school in the event of the following:
  - If they are identified by the HSE as a close contact of a confirmed case of Covid-19
  - If they live with someone who has symptoms of the virus
  - If they have travelled outside of Ireland

- Students will be asked to co-operate with any public health officials and the school for contact tracing purposes and follow any public health advice in the event of a case / outbreak in the school.
- Students along with staff need to remain vigilant - please remember to wash / sanitise your hands on entry to and exit of the school and as necessary throughout the school day. This advice would also include if you exit / enter a vehicle before / after the school day.

We look forward to a safe return for all students and staff on April 12th. Happy Easter.

Kind regards,  
Paul Burke  
Principal