



24/08/20

Dear Parent/Guardian

We are delighted to be welcoming students back to Coláiste Mhichíl from Monday, 31/08/20, on a phased return. Please ensure both you and your son know the important information contained in this letter and also the important information that is available on our school website – www.cbssextonstreet.ie

Arrangements for the Start of Term

As you can imagine, our number one priority is the wellbeing and safety of our school community, both students and staff. It is therefore, very important that students and parents/guardians are aware of the school's Covid Response Plan and follow all advice and guidance laid out for the safe return to school.

As you will be aware, the return to school will not be a return to the normality we all knew before lockdown. We have put many new arrangements in place to allow the school to operate as safely as possible. It will take some time for us to explain these measures to our students and for us all to get used to them. We would appreciate your support in these most unusual of times. The school website and social media platforms will be very important tools to disseminate up-to-date information this year, so please ensure you monitor these regularly.

To allow a safe and orderly start to the term, we will be operating a phased return as outlined below, from Monday August 31st to Friday September 4th.

Unfortunately, Parents/Guardians will not be able to attend the induction assemblies with their children this year. We would ask that your son is present in the school yard 15 minutes prior to the assembly. Parents are permitted to drop and collect their sons at the school gate. Social distancing guidance should be strictly followed by all students and parents before, during and after the assemblies.

Year groups will attend school on the following days:

Monday August 31st	6 th Year and LCA 2 Induction	9.30 to 11.30
Tuesday September 1st	3 rd Year Induction	9.30 to 11.30
Wednesday September 2nd	5 th Year and LCA 1 Induction	9.30 to 11.30
	TY Induction	1.00 to 3.00
Thursday September 3rd	2 nd Year Induction	9.30 to 11.30
	1 st Year Induction	1.00 to 3.00
Friday September 4th	1 st Year Induction	9.30 to 11.30
Monday September 7th	Classes commence for all years.	9.00 to 3.00

Please note that the Home School Liaison Coordinator and the SCP team will be linking in with the parents of 1st Year students around the Transition Program and answering any queries on the transition from Primary to Post-Primary school.

Getting to School

We want everyone to arrive safely in school and would ask for your support with the following arrangements.

- Students will have access to the school from 8.30 am. All students are expected to be in school by 8.50 am and should to process to their first class.
- Students are asked to enter the school via the black gate to the main school yard. This is to allow Primary and Infant school students in the adjoining primary schools use the pedestrian access that runs outside our main reception area.
- Where a student uses a bus to travel to and from school, they are reminded of the need to wear a face mask and maintain physical distancing guidelines.
- Parents are reminded that the school car park must not be used for drop off or pick up other than for students with disabilities. While we appreciate parents may find this inconvenient, dropping off students in the car park where other vehicles are moving is dangerous and can result in a further hazard. This is especially relevant in a campus that contains three schools.
- There is no student car parking available on the school grounds.
- We would ask parents/guardians to ensure that their son's do not congregate in groups before or after school either outside of the school grounds or in shops in the vicinity of the school.

Students returning from abroad during the school year.

Students returning from non-green list countries will be required to fully comply with all current and evolving Government Guidelines.

The current guidelines state that persons are required to self-isolate for a period of 14 days on return to Ireland. This will be strictly adhered to in Coláiste Mhichíl. Parents/Guardians of all students are requested to contact info@cbssextonstreet.ie to inform the school if students have been abroad. For the health and safety of the entire school community we require that Parents/Guardian fully comply with Government Guidelines on this matter.

Break and Lunchtime Arrangements

Split breaks have been introduced for the 2020/21 school year.

- Senior Cycle Students (TY, 5th and 6th Year students) will have their breaks at 10.20 to 10.30 and 12.30 to 1.00.
- Junior Cycle Students (1st, 2nd and 3rd Years) will have their breaks at 11.00 to 11.10 and 1.10 to 1.40.

The tuck shop will not be open at either small break but will be open for the lunch break (12.30 and 1.10). Only the Schools Meals Lunch will be distributed from here at these times. This year a limited menu has been introduced. Hot Ciabattas (3 options) and bottled water will be available for all students. Students who do not want to avail of this service should bring a packed lunch with them on a daily basis. The School Meal Provider is installing temporary measures in the school yard to enable social distancing and an effective queueing system.

The school is NOT in a position to accept any individual late deliveries of packed lunches to the school office. This also applies to late deliveries of school bags, PE kits or any other item.

Students will be encouraged to spend break time outdoors in the fresh air for the time being.

Face Masks for Students

Students are required to wear face masks whilst in school as per the Covid Response Plan. We are requesting that all students have their own supply of face masks, which can be disposable or washable. Face masks are widely available and advice about the types of facemasks we recommend can be found via the HSE link <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/face-masks-disposable-gloves.html>

As a school community we require that students refrain from wearing face masks that depict any imagery or messaging that may cause offence or distraction to others. We thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

Sanitizer and Wipes

Sanitizer will be available throughout the school building. Students will be required to sanitize their hands on a regular basis as outlined in the Covid Response Plan. Students will also be required to wipe down their desks, computers, and other such objects after use. If students want to bring their own supply of sanitizer and wipes to school to reduce wait time, this is permitted. Students should use in line with school procedures.

Hot water has been piped into student toilets. Students are asked to follow hygiene and hand washing etiquette as outlined in the Covid Response Plan.

Visiting the School

In line with advice laid out by the Department of Education and Skills visitors to the school will be strictly limited. Visitors (including parents/guardians) can only enter the school having made a prior appointment through the school office. No unannounced visitors can or will be permitted to enter the school. Once an appointment is confirmed visitors will be asked to wait outside the school building until contacted by the school office. Again, we thank parents/guardians in advance for their cooperation in these matters.

Wellbeing

We are very aware that lockdown has been a difficult time for many families and that there will be understandable anxiety about returning to school for many. Our staff will be ready to reassure and support students next week, and in the days and weeks ahead. Our Pastoral Care, Student Support and AEN Teams will be on hand to deal with any queries.

Changes to the Code of Behaviour Policy during Covid-19

In light of the need for students to be more mindful of attending school during the current Covid-19 climate, an amendment to the Code of Behaviour Policy is required so that students will be aware of specific rules on their return to school. Our guiding principle when making any changes or adjustments to this policy is to be able to keep all of our students, families and staff safe. The amendments will be communicated to all in our school community shortly once a common approach has been agreed by the DES.

Finally

Please keep an eye out for further important information which will issue over the next few days and weeks. Staff in school are working extremely hard to implement guidance as it issues. You will appreciate that timescales have been tight, and we are working in a dynamic situation, so your support and understanding is much appreciated. Looking forward to seeing you all the lads from the 31st onwards

Yours sincerely

Denis O'Connor & Rob Williams