

COLAISTE MUIRE,
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Message to the Parents of Coláiste Muire on Return to School August 2020

17.08.2020

Dear Parents and Guardians of Coláiste Muire,

I hope you are coping mentally and physically with the demands of the pandemic. It seems we will all be living a modified existence for the foreseeable future. Education is no exception. Life must go on.

The Board of Management are following a Government plan called 'the Roadmap for the Full Return to School'. It offers the best protection to all who work and study in our school and the community of the Great Island. Once we follow this plan in full, Colaiste Muire will open to all pupils in late August and early September.

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/7acad-reopening-our-post-primary-schools/#covid-19-response-plan-for-safe-reopening-of-post-primary-schools>

The distancing guideline in the plan is for 1m spacing, shoulder to shoulder. This means that we have to acquire storage and rent classroom space close by the school. Most classrooms are being reconfigured. Even at this, a room that can take 25, now takes 19. A room that comfortably took 30 can only take 24. A handful of rooms can still take 30. There will be a supervised area for students to follow classes online. This will be necessary in situations where, for example, a class of 25 arrive at a room with a maximum capacity of 24. One student will then have to follow their teacher's lesson online elsewhere in the building. Teachers will rotate which students are redirected.

A decision was taken by the Government on August 7th that all students should be wearing face coverings if 2m spacing is not possible. As our rooms will not take this type of spacing, your child will have to wear face protection.

Therefore, for most of your child's weekly timetable they will be wearing a face mask provided by you. We have received no specific advice on school uniforms. We expect a regular washing routine at home will be sufficient and we will be expecting compliance with the Uniform policy.

This is a school reopening like no other. Students will have to be trained in hand sanitisation, cough etiquette, recognising Covid symptoms etc. It is prudent to have a staggered opening. **All years will have an induction meeting and we will be on half-days for a week to observe movement in the building and compliance with the Roadmap.**

We will be reviewing each afternoon and making any necessary adjustments to the room timetable, if required.

Fanaigí Slán,

Fergus O'Brien,

Principal

Schedule for return to School:

Students in full uniform for induction and class. Timetables will be distributed at induction.

Thursday 27 th August:	Whole Staff Planning (covid-19, mandatory)
Friday 28 th August:	Teaching Staff Planning (general and contingency planning)
Monday 31 st August:	8.50am – 10.50am 1st Year Induction (they go home at 10.50am) 11.30am - 1.05pm 6th year Induction
Tuesday 1 st September:	8.50am to 1.05pm Classes for 1 st years (i.e. a half day) 2-4pm 3rd year Induction
Wednesday 2 nd September:	8.50am to 1.05pm Classes for 6 th Years (1 st Years also present)
Thursday 3 rd September:	8.50am to 1.05pm Classes for 3 rd Years (1 st & 6 th Years also present) 2pm-4pm 5th year Induction
Friday 4 th September:	8.50am to 1.05pm Classes for 5 th Year (1 st , 6 th & 3 rd Years also present) 1.45pm-3.45pm 2nd Year Induction.
Monday 7 th September	8.50am to 1.05pm Classes for 2 nd Year (1 st , 6 th , 3 rd , & 5 th Years also present) 2pm-4pm Transition Year induction.
Tuesday 8 th September	Transition Year return to school (all other Years also present), all day.

Please note:

- Reopening may have to be paused for particular year groups at short notice. We have to closely monitor the room changes and movement of pupils throughout the building and any possible rented accommodation. A core team of management and staff will be reviewing compliance with social distancing as we add each year group to the timetable for the first week.
- The main school email is now being changed. Please use info@colaistemuire.com from now on
- Staff will decide on the timing of three days taken in lieu of early return to work- this will be published the first week back, along with dates of Parent Teacher Meetings.