



26th March 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Return to School – 12th April 2021

I hope that you and your family are keeping well during this time. It is intended, in line with public health advice that in-school teaching & learning is to return for 1st, 2nd, 3rd & Transition Years on the 12th April after the easter holidays. Both myself and the school staff appreciate that student engagement in online learning has been varied because of students' individual circumstances. What is important now is that students prepare themselves for a return to in school teaching & learning on 12th April and our focus will be on this. Students should not be worried about their online engagement or lack of, but rather focus on a positive return to school after Easter. WE aim to ease students back into in-school learning during this first week on their return to school.

On Monday the 12th April all students must bring with them a completed **Return to school declaration form**. **This form is included at the end of this letter.**

End of Year Assessment:

3rd Year

In line with guidance from the Department of Education & skills there will be no Junior Cycle SEC examinations this year. These are to be replaced by in-school continuous assessment. The 3rd Year Summer Report will be made up of the following in each subject:

- **60%** - student performance both formative and summative over the past 3 years. Also include CBA's in this.
- **15%** - student online engagement and learning since January 2021.
- **25%** - in-school continuous assessment between 12th April and 28th May 2021.
- CBA's completed will also be reported.

1st, 2nd, TY & 5th Years

Students in these year groups will have in school continuous assessment during April and May to assess their learning. This will form the basis for their summer report. The school will not be running any formal in-house end of year summer exams. These are being replaced by the continuous assessment as per the Department of Education & Skills guidance to schools.

Key points on Returning to School:

- It is important to note that a very high-risk student is one with an underlying medical condition that makes him/her extremely vulnerable from contracting COVID-19. Schools must be provided with a letter from a medical professional stating that the student falls into that category. The arrangements in this guidance apply to those students only. All other students are expected to return to school.
- Parents of students returning to school will be asked to complete a **declaration form**. The Department states that this form is to be used when students are returning to school after any absence. Students over 18 years may, if they choose, complete the document in respect of themselves. This form is included at the end of this letter
- Timetable will remain as normal.
- There should be no congregation outside schools during this interim phase. Please advise your child in this regard.
- Importance of keeping COVID-19 out of education facilities by keeping symptomatic children at home. Parents should err on the side of caution in this respect and follow the policy if sick in any way and stay at home.



- Staff and pupils must not return to or attend 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; in such instances staff are advised to consult and follow latest Government advice in relation to foreign travel.
 - staff and pupils to cooperate with any public health officials and the school for contact tracing purposes and follow any public health advice in the event of a case or outbreak in the school

The Government website has been updated www.gov.ie/backtoschool with new materials for parents and for students. These are designed to be age-appropriate and have been developed in consultation with children and young people and parents. The Minister has asked the important information from the Department and the HSE with regard to returning to school is shared with all parents. Links to each of these are below:

- Video for parents with key information on supporting children to return to school available [here](#) and [here](#)
- Fliers for parents –are also available for download [here](#). The HSE has prepared material on recognising symptoms, which complements the material from the Department on returning to school. This is available [here](#) Much of this is summarised in the parent and student presentation but should be read also,
- Resources in a wide range of languages. Our school enjoys huge diversity among their student and parent community. To support these parents, we have translated guidance for parents [here](#).
- The Covid-19 World Service project has consulted with the Department of Education & Skills and has used key messages to produce a range of videos in a variety of languages which our school community may find helpful – please see more at <https://nascireland.org/covid-19-world-service>
- **Where there is a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 amongst school staff or pupils, schools will be required to follow the public health instruction of the HSE Public Health.**

Wishing you and yours Easter blessings.

Fr Ignatius McCormack

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Principal



Return to Educational Facility Parental Declaration Form

Child's Name:	Manager's Name:
Parents/Guardian's Name:	
Name of Setting:	
This form is to be used when children are returning to the setting after any absence.	
Declaration: I have no reason to believe that my child has infectious disease and I have followed all medical and public health guidance with respect to exclusion of my child from educational facilities.	
Signed _____	
Date: _____	