



Dear 6th year student/parent/guardian,

I hope you all had a restful mid-term break, and that you are all coping with being back in front of the screens again. As you are aware it has been announced that 6th year students will be returning to school on Monday 1st March.

Return to face-to-face tuition

The contingency timetable and online live classes have been working really well, and feedback from teachers, parents and students has been mostly very positive. In recent days we have been planning for how we can continue to offer the best possible education for all of our students. An updated version of the contingency timetable for 6th years (LC and LCA) is attached. This timetable will allow teachers to continue to effectively deliver online classes to the other year groups while also teaching the 6th years in person. The provision of online classes for 6th year (LC and LCA) will cease from March 1st, as 6th years return to face-to-face classes on that date. We have decided to continue to exclude any non-exam subjects from the 6th year timetable during the initial return to school (this accounts for the shorter day on Friday below), this will be reviewed as the phased return to school for all year groups continues.

The 6th year students will follow the updated contingency timetable (see attached), but it will in effect run as follows;

Monday	09.00-15.45
Tuesday	09.00-14.45
Wednesday	09.00- 13.15 (LCVP students in at 9, all else in at 10)
Thursday	09.00- 15.45
Friday	09.00- 13.15

The LCA2 classes will follow their contingency timetable as they have been doing all along (see attached).

We would ask students not to congregate in groups on the way into school or at the school gates. School will be open from 08.45 and students should make their way straight to their first class. The lunch break has been shortened to 30 mins, we ask that students do not leave the school to go to the shop during the break. The school cafeteria will offer a limited service to assist students to remain in the building during the shorter lunch break. There will be no access to the sixth year kitchenette for the foreseeable future. ***This is to ensure that students continue to abide by Public Health advice in relation to the avoidance of congregating in large groups.*** At break times, if the weather is poor and they cannot go outside, 6th year students will have the use of all 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 the Public Health advice around social distancing. Please be aware that windows will be open in all classrooms to ensure adequate ventilation. Whilst the heating will be on, it is reasonable to expect that the school will be cold, so please wear layers of clothing.



Regular school rules in relation to 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.

Leaving Certificate:

We have not received any further details from the Department of Education in relation to the Leaving Certificate exams and the accredited grades process that was announced over the midterm break. As soon as we get more information we will be in contact. In the meantime, our advice to sixth year students is that they should sit the Leaving Certificate exams in June as this gives students every chance of doing as well as they can.

If students also wish to opt for an accredited grade they are welcome to do so.

The Department has announced that secondary schools will close for all students on May 28th to allow for the work on the school based section of the accredited grades process to be completed by staff. Therefore, we must point out to students that work up to and including the middle of May will form part of the process of arriving at an accredited grade.

Students need to be clear that an accredited grade will not simply come from an average of their previous test scores. These scores will only form part of the process whereby the SEC (State Examinations Commission) produces the accredited grade.

We are awaiting details of orals, practicals and coursework requirements from the Department of Education and SEC which is due to issue in the coming weeks.

Pre-examinations:

We will not be holding any form of Pre-exams before Easter. When we return to school, and after we receive further guidance from the Department of Education and SEC, we will consult on what form of assessments are required during the final term in order to best prepare students for the Leaving Cert exams in June and to best inform the accredited grades process.

Important:

It is imperative to remember the following at all times:

- A Health Declaration Form will be forwarded to you from the school. This must be completed before any return to school.
- Pupils 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
- Pupils should NOT return to school in 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



- Pupils 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 or outbreak in the school
- Pupils along with staff need to remain vigilant - please remember to wash / sanitise your hands on entry and exit to 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 are aware that this is a difficult time for 6th year students and your families. We understand the frustration around the lack of subject specific information (in particular in relation to coursework and projects etc), teachers are also eagerly awaiting updates in relation to these matters. Please be aware that students or parents/guardians should not approach teachers to ask them about individual accredited grades. We would ask students to continue to work with us as we navigate the coming weeks and months. Our school Counsellors and school Chaplain are available and willing to meet with any student that would like to talk to someone.

We look forward to a safe return of our 6th year students on March 1st. We will continue to update you in relation to the state exams as and when we get further information from the Department of Education and the State Examinations Commission.

Kind regards,

Paul Burke
Principal