



Coláiste Dún an Rí

Kingscourt, Co.Cavan

Principal: Fergal Boyle

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Dear Parent,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. Thank you for your continued support of the school particularly around our COVID 19 Safety Protocols. Students have played their part in what has been a very challenging time for them as they, and we adapt to the new regulations we must adhere to. At this point in time we still have a number of challenges to deal with particularly as we move into the darker winter months and with this in mind, I would like to draw your attention to the following contingency plans:

Managing Student Absences

When students are absent, they can access class materials via Teams and/or by emailing their teacher for more specific information. As teachers we are still adapting to the new forms of teaching and learning so there will be some challenges in this regard, so I encourage all students to keep regular contact with their subject teachers. For students who do not have reliable broadband work can be provided by email and returned in printed or written form.

If students are going to be absent for a number of days, we ask that you let us know and we can endeavour to keep your child supplied with work.

Managing Teacher Absences

There is a likely scenario that a number of teachers may be absent on any given day. As there is now a dearth of reliable substitute teachers available, we would, in this event, have no option but to instruct a year group to remain at home for the day. Should this happen we will relay the decision to you via text but given the uncertain nature of absences we may have to do this at short notice i.e. 8am that morning. I need all parents to be aware that this may be the case but will only be done if the situation is unavoidable. If and when this happens, we will leave students at home on rotation as follows: Transition Year, Fifth Year, Second Year and Third Year. We will endeavour to maintain First Year classes in school. The year group that remains at home will be expected to do work at home and will be provided work by teachers where this is possible.

Senior Management Absences

Should the Principal be absent then the Deputy Principal takes over the on-site management of the school. Should both the principal and deputy be absent then the on-site management of the school will be conducted by the senior Assistant Principals in this order: Mrs C Lynch, Mr D O'Brien, Ms O Patton and Mrs L Hickey.

Managing Admin Absences

Should our administrative staff be absent we have no cover at the moment. Please be aware that in this instance we will not be able to guarantee that phones will be answered. As things currently stand, we do not have staff available to cover the office on Mondays.

Managing a School Closure

We have been informed that a school closure is unlikely even if we move into Level 5. Should a closure happen, however, we will move to online classes where broadband allows for teachers and students. In this scenario it is hoped that teachers and students will follow their timetable through the medium of Teams.

Managing Student Break Times.

As the weather deteriorates, we will not be able to allow students go outside. As the winter comes, we will have to restrict students to classrooms during break time. I know that this will be very frustrating for students and staff alike. We will try to let some students to the PE Hall on a rotation basis, but we will need the cooperation of students when they have to remain in rooms. We will try to provide some activities in classrooms e.g. cards, music, You Tube.

I have spoken with the Student Council and there has been a suggestion to reduce the longer lunch break from 40 to 25 minutes as students are finding this break too long, and school will terminate 15 minutes earlier. I am prepared to do this on a temporary basis if parents are agreeable and I have the agreement of the Board of Management to proceed. I ask parents to complete the survey attached to this webpage to give your opinion on this proposal.

I know this may inconvenience some parents in relation to child collection at the end of the day but as the school is open until 5pm most evenings any student who needs to wait for collection can stay in the school safely. The benefits of this change are that students will be home earlier but also have less time in classrooms at lunchtime on cold/wet days.

Health and Safety Control of COVID 19 Policy for Students

The school's Health and Safety Control of COVID 19 is available on this webpage. I ask all parents to make themselves aware of this policy. This policy runs along side our Code of Behaviour Policy.

Enrolments for 2021-2022

While we will not have an Open Night or Subject Sampling Morning this year, we will commence our enrolment process in the coming week. Enrolment packs (Application Forms) will be distributed through the local primary schools in from the week of October 12th and we will be posting additional information on our website at that time.

Thank you all once again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Fergal Boyle

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