

Dear Parents / Students

The staff of St. Mogue's College are looking forward to welcoming you back in the coming weeks. We hope you have all been in good health during this very difficult and stressful time. The following is an update on the measures undertaken in the school to ensure a safe return for staff and students.

Return Dates

Friday 28th August -- 1st Year Student Induction (9.00 a.m. – 1. 15 p.m)

Monday 31st August -- 1st , 3rd & 6th Year Students (9.00 a.m. – 1. 15 p.m)

Tuesday 1st September – 2nd , 5th & T.Y Students (9.00 a.m. – 1. 15 p.m)

Wednesday 2nd September – All students (9.00a.m - 3. 50 p.m)

Please note change on Tuesday 1st from previous letter. **Please be advised that these dates and times are subject to change depending on advice from the Dept. of Education & Skills.** You will be notified of changes by text

Classrooms

All students will be assigned to a base classroom. Each student will have a designated seat (name on seat). Teachers will move classrooms. This will eliminate mass movement of students. However, some movement will be necessary for Practical Subjects. Students will also have a designated seat in these classrooms. All unnecessary furniture has been removed and double desks have been replaced by single desks. Chairs with fabric covering have been replaced by vinyl chairs. There is a distance of 1 metre (shoulder to shoulder) between students. Every effort has been made to ensure adherence to physical distancing guidelines **Note** : Students must refrain from making any physical contact with each other. This includes holding hands, arms around each other, hugging and hand greetings.

Procedures

When students arrive in school in the morning, they use the main student entrance. They proceed directly to their base classroom and their designated seat – taking care to maintain a minimum of 1 metre (preferably 2 metre) distance from other students. Teachers in charge of the Breakfast Bar will direct those who wish to avail of the free breakfast.

At lunch break students must return to their base classroom and designated seat to have their lunch. Anyone who has the school lunch (filled rolls / drink etc) will have this brought to their classroom to avoid queues in the canteen area. If students are bringing their own lunch, they are requested to use a disposable wrapper. (It is not recommended to bring lunch boxes) Students may go outside for the remainder of their lunch break. There will be some outdoor seating where students may have lunch if they wish. Morning breaks and Lunch breaks will be staggered to minimise numbers in outdoor areas. In the evening students will leave the school using the exit nearest to their classroom.

Face Coverings

Students will be required to wear face coverings in class, on the corridors & on the school bus. If a student has difficulty because of health issues he/she may use a visor. As St. Mogue's College has a duty of care to each person in the school building this is a necessary requirement. These may be removed when outdoors and a where distance of 2 metres is possible. Hand sanitizer should be used before putting on the face covering and after it is removed.

Note: Students should bring two re-usable face coverings each day. These must be washed after use.

Sanitizer Stations

There are a number of stations throughout the school building. Each classroom is fitted with a wall mounted hand sanitizer. Foot pump sanitizers are also on order for every classroom. Students will be required to use these in the morning, after break and after lunch.

All students will be given a pack comprising a small bottle of sanitizer, wipes & tissues.

Note: Parents are asked to please ensure that these are refilled / replaced when empty

Cleaning

An additional cleaner has been employed to complement the regular cleaners. Each room will be cleaned daily with emphasis on frequently touched surfaces. In addition, students will be asked to wipe **their own** chairs, tables & work areas under the supervision of the teacher.

Toilets

Toilets will be cleaned / disinfected continually throughout the day. This will be a priority area for cleaning staff. Additional paper towel dispensers have been fitted. There will be a maximum number of students allowed in the toilet at any one time.

Lockers

As lockers **can not** be used students will be supplied with an individual box which will be kept at their own desk. We would ask parents to ensure that their son / daughter brings a jacket as it will be necessary to open windows at intervals to allow air circulation.

Books / Devices

As all students have iPads / Surface Go's etc & most textbooks are uploaded to these devices there is minimum use of hard copy texts. This eliminates the problem of sharing books. Teachers will send homework / class demos etc via Teams & students will return work/ projects using the same platform

Procedure for Parents

Entry to the school by visitors will be restricted to contractors, guest speakers and parents who have already made an appointment by email or phone. We will be unable to pass on lunch boxes, gear bags or money to students. Parents picking students up early should remain in their cars and phone the school.

Covid 19

If a student becomes ill in school with suspected Covid 19 he/ she will be brought to the isolation area at the front of the school. The student's parent will be contacted to collect their son / daughter. It is the responsibility of the parent to contact their GP who will arrange a Covid test.

N.B If your son / daughter displays any symptoms it is critical that he/ she does not come to school. There are students who may be vulnerable or who are living with people in the high-risk category. As a school we are doing everything possible to ensure the safety of staff and students, we are depending on the vigilance of parents. We must work together to ensure that we keep St. Mogue's College free from this virus.

We look forward to the future when school life can return to normal.

Anne Conaghan

Principal

Martha Brady

Deputy Principal