



Parents' Update

April 2021

Dear Parents(s)/Guardian(s),

Reopening the College to all students

On Monday the 12th April Castleknock Community College will welcome back all students to the College. While the Fifth & Sixth Year students have been back in school since March we look forward to welcoming our Junior & Transition Year students. In advance of the College reopening it is vitally important that we remind you of the health and safety protocols that remain in place at the College. The College's Covid Plan is available to download from the College's website and it contains a very comprehensive guide for parents in relation to Covid 19.

- All students must wear masks in school and entering and leaving the College.
- All students must provide their own disinfectant wipes to ensure that they keep their workspaces clean.
- Students from each year group must enter and exit the College through their designated area.
 - o First Years Main Entrance
 - o Second Years. Through Entrance at Rooms 26/27 /Learning Support
 - o Third Years As side of school/Near Guidance Office & Room 54
 - o Transition Years Through Entrance at Rooms 16/17
 - o Fifth Years Student Entrance
 - o Sixth Years New Building Entrance

HSE Protocols for all First, Second, Third & TY Student

In advance of First, Second, Third & TY Students returning to the College on the 12th April it is essential that the HSE Survey is completed by all families: "***Return to Educational Facility Parental Declaration Form April 2021***". Parents are required to respond to three questions: Child's Name, Year Group, and the following question:

"I have no reason to believe that my child has an infectious disease and I have followed all medical and public health guidance with respect to exclusion of my child from educational facilities".

Parents are required to complete a separate survey for each sibling. The link for the survey will be texted to parents' phones on Thursday 8th April. The link will also be accessible on each student's MS Teams account.

Remember this survey must be completed in advance of your daughter/son's return to Castleknock Community College.

Arrangements for Communicating Student Absence

1. If a student is going to be absent from school, the student's parent/guardian should email the Class Tutor by 8.30a.m. on the day of the absence. The reason for the absence should be outlined in the email. This absence will be noted on VS Ware.
2. If the absence relates to self-isolation or isolation due to medical advice, this information should be included in the email. If the student is waiting for a Covid-19 test, this should also be mentioned.
3. If the result of the Covid-19 test is negative, this should be communicated by email, to the Class Tutor ahead of the student's return to school. The student may need to complete the period of isolation and this should also be communicated.
4. If the result of the Covid-19 test is positive, the parent/guardian should communicate this information directly to the Principal who will act as liaison person from this point on. The HSE will contact the Principal and request records such as attendance, punctuality, seating plan, lunch arrangements and other information pertaining to the student and the other students in the class. The Principal's email address is: johncronin@castleknockcc.ie
5. The HSE officials will then communicate with the Principal, as Secretary of the Board of Management, and advise on how to proceed having considered all the information. The Principal will communicate with the school community as appropriate.

Health & Safety Parking at front of the school

We are reminding all parents not to park on the school grounds or on the slip road at the entrance to the College. As more students intend to cycle to the College in the coming weeks it is imperative that they are given every opportunity to cycle to and from school safely. Parents whose children have a medical condition are permitted to enter the College grounds but must do so with extreme care.

Re-registration & Payments (Sports & Social Contributions)

Please be advised that we will continue with our Re-Registration of all students after the Easter break. Prior to the Easter Break we completed the process of re-registering all Fifth Year students. Immediately after the Easter Break, we will commence the process of re-registering First, Second, Third & Transition Year students:

Year Group	Forms issued through tutorial	Forms due back
First Years	Friday 16 th April	Friday 23 rd April
Second Years	Thursday 15 th April	Thursday 22 nd April
Third Years	Wednesday 14 th April	Wednesday 21 st April
Transition Years	Wednesday 14 th April	Wednesday 21 st April

Please be advised that all requests for payments are voluntary. The College is very aware that many of our families have suffered financially as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic. We appeal to these families to contact the Principal, John Cronin, in the strictest of confidence. There are a number of grants that the College can access to support such families at this time.

House Exams & Assessments in the Final Term.

As we prepare for our final term, we have enclosed the Assessment Plan for all year groups with the exception of sixth years. The Assessment Plans indicated how each subject department will be assessing their students. Subject Departments have indicated how the final grade will be achieved in each subject and what criterion will be used to create the final assessment grade: Class Assessments, Finals Assessments & Other Elements.

In most cases students will sit exams in late May however the Department of Education & Skills has informed schools that all assessments for Third Year students must be completed by Friday 21st May. The assessments and exams set for third year will be reported on in June 2021 and the scores achieved will represent their Junior Cycle Grade 2021. Please note that the grades achieved in the core subjects (Irish, English, Maths and MFL) will be used when considering Higher & Ordinary level classes in Senior cycle.

Senior Cycle Options (Message for Parents of Third Year & TY students)

Thank you to all students who will be transferring into fifth year in September 2021 for completing their senior cycle option forms. As is often the case we were unable to offer all students their three option subjects. Of the 205 students entering fifth year, 24 students did not secure their preferred three options. There are a number of reasons why this occurs:

- A particular option subject did not secure the required number of students to make the subject a viable option
- A student chose two options that were subsequently concurrently timetabled. This often happens with subjects such that only appear once on the Options Table: Art, Music, Classics, Religion, Accounting, Economics, Construction Studies, Technology, DCG, Engineering, Home Economics, Agricultural Science, Physics and Computer Science. Some of these subjects appear on the same options line and therefore it is not possible to study both options.
- A subject was oversubscribed. Remember the maximum number of students in a practical class is twenty-four.

Update Pictures on VS Ware

Due to Covid 19 restrictions we were unable to update student photographs on the VS Ware system. The company that oversees this process will be based in the College during the week commencing Monday 19th April and we plan to take portrait photographs of the following year groups: First Years (2020-21), Transition Year (2020-21), Fifth Year & LCA1 (2020-21) & any students who joined the College over the last academic year in Second and Third Year.

Fingal Enterprise Awards 2021

We wish to extend our congratulations to three second year students who were recent Award Winners at the Fingal Enterprise Awards: Intermediate Runners up were Julia McLarnon & Emma Spratt. The winner of the Best Video was Caoifhinn Fallon.

School Calendar

Monday 12 th April	College Reopens for all students
Monday 3 rd May	College Closed – Bank Holiday
Tuesday 4 th May	College Closed – as per school calendar
Friday 14 th May	Last day for considering Predicted Grades for LC 2021
Friday 21 st May	Last day for considering Assessment Grades for JC 2021
Thursday 27 th May	Leaving Certificate – Virtual Graduation at 7.00p.m.
Friday 28 th May	School closes for all students.
Monday 31 st May	Accredited Grades Process for LC 2021 commences
Wednesday 9 th June	Leaving Certificate 2021 Exams Commence

Leaving Certificate 2021 - Key Dates

- LC Oral examinations: 26th March to 15th April
- Portal reopens April/May to confirm levels (date TBC)
- LCVP Links modules on the morning of Saturday 8th May 10am – 12:30pm
- LC Applied Orals: 3rd May to 12th May
- LCA practical performance test: 17th May to 21st May
- LC Computer Science on the morning of Saturday 22nd May 9:30am - 12:30pm
- LCA practical coursework interview: week beginning 8th June
- Written exams: 9th June to 29th June

CAO Change of Mind - 5th May (12:00 noon) to 1st July (17:15)

At the beginning of May 2021, applicants will be able to register an online change of course choices, free of charge. If you change online an acknowledgement will be sent to the e-mail address you used at the application stage. There is no fee for using the Change of Mind facility.

Making Changes

- Subject to the exceptions and restrictions mentioned below, you may change course choices (without fee) as often as you wish, up to 17:15 on the 1st July.
- If you submit a Change of Mind it cancels and supersedes all the previous course choices in any category in which changes are made. However, choices in the two categories (Level 8 and Level 7/6) are considered to be completely separate from each other for this purpose e.g. a change of Level 8 course choices will not affect Level 7/6 choices.
- If you do not wish to change the courses in one category, do not submit a change. Your original courses in that category will remain unchanged.
- Do not mix courses from different categories (Level 8 and Level 7/6) and make sure to list all of your course choices for the particular category which you change.
- Except for **Restricted Application Courses/Restricted Categories of applicant** (see page 3 of the CAO handbook), you may enter on the form courses which did not appear on your original application.

Yours faithfully,

John Cronin
Principal