



## Parents Newsletter Update Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2022

As we prepare to welcome back our students and staff after the Mid-Term Break, we do so with the knowledge that the remaining Covid restrictions that have been in place in schools have now been lifted following the government's announcement last week. While this is a significant step forward in the country's management of Covid 19 it will, no doubt, bring new challenges. I am very aware that for some, concerns for their health and safety will remain, and it is important that they are reassured and supported. It is true that the last two years has impacted on all of us in different ways and it is essential that we remain mindful and aware of others as we move into this new phase of living with Covid.

### **Wearing of Masks**

The removal of the Covid restrictions will mean that it will no longer be mandatory for students and staff to wear face masks and the use of Pods will no longer be required.

In relation to the wearing of masks students and staff may continue to wear masks if they so wish and their decision will be fully respected and supported by the management of the College. I am very aware that there are family members of staff and students who have medical conditions that require them to take additional measures to stay safe from Covid. To date the level of compliance has been exceptional and students and staff have worked together to keep the College safe, and it is important that we continue to work together in the coming months and respect each person's right to wear a mask if they so wish.

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### **Class Reconfiguration**

Over the midterm we began the process of reconfiguring the classrooms as there will be no Pods in operation from Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February. This will mean that many Junior Cycle classes (First, Second & Third Years) will move from twenty-four students to thirty students per class. Consequently, we will still require rooms to be ventilated on a regular basis.

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## **HSE Guidelines**

It is important that we continue to remind ourselves of the protocols with regard to Covid 19. The HSE website continues to provide guidance for people who test positive for the Covid 19 virus and the required isolation periods depending on the level of vaccination.

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## **Lunchtime**

As stated in the Mid-Term Newsletter (Available to download from the College website) senior students (TY, Fifth & Sixth Years) will now be permitted to go to the shops at lunchtime. This is a privilege that senior students have been afforded over the years. Junior Cycle students have no permission to go to the shops at lunchtime.

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## **Concerns**

Please do not hesitate to contact the College if you have particular questions or concerns in relation to the new arrangements that will be introduced from Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February

John Cronin  
Principal

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