



St. Joseph's Secondary School,  
Castlebar,  
Co. Mayo.  
F23 RK09

13<sup>th</sup> August, 2020.

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We hope you and your families have had an enjoyable and safe summer and that you are in a position to make the most of the holiday period left. We are delighted and excited to welcome our students and staff back for the 2020/2021 Academic Year. A very special warm welcome to our 1<sup>st</sup> Years, we look forward to meeting you and we will mind and care for you and hope that you have a rich and rewarding time in St. Josephs. The CEIST Ethos is wellbeing and respect and is at the centre of what we do while adhering to the DES and HSE guidelines. We are aware of the effects, good and not so good of remote teaching and learning on the curriculum and we will be embedding core skills in English, Irish and Maths for all students at the start of the school year.√

The Board of Management, Principal, Deputy Principal, Covid Aide, Lead Worker Representatives, Secretary and Caretaker have been working diligently to ensure the safe return of your daughter(s) and staff. We have faced many challenges and have had to change direction on more than one occasion as guidelines have changed and we will continue to follow the latest recommendations from the Department of Education, this may lead to further correspondence, but rest assured, we will keep you up to date with all changes. We aim to have a Zoom information evening with 1<sup>st</sup> Year parents on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August at 7.30 p.m. to support you in your daughter's transition from Primary School to Post Primary School. We will forward you the link for this meeting closer to the time.

Return to school dates:

We have altered our return to school dates to the following:

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020: 1<sup>st</sup> Years - 9 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020: 6<sup>th</sup> Years - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020: 5<sup>th</sup> Years - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020: 3<sup>rd</sup> Years - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020: 2<sup>nd</sup> Years - 9 a.m. to 1.15 p.m.

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020: TY - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The incremental return of students is to allow us to make the transition for all students as seamless as possible and afford us the opportunity to make each student safe, calm and aware of school protocols regarding Covid procedures.

We have changed the structure of the school day. We are remaining with the 40 minute class time but giving 2 double and 1 single class to option subjects for 5<sup>th</sup> Year and Leaving Cert. Class starts at 9 a.m. Monday to Friday for all students. finish time is 4 p.m. Monday to Thursday and on **Friday it is 1.15 p.m.**

We will have morning break from 10.20 a.m. to 10.35 a.m. and lunch break from 1.15 p.m. to 2.00 p.m. Monday to Thursday. Students finish at 1.15 p.m. every Friday. We have been formally assured by Bus Eireann that buses will run on Fridays at 1.20 p.m. for those that use them

We have reconfigured classrooms with all students 1 metre apart. Where possible we have designated each year group a section of the school. So First Years mix in their own area and 2<sup>nd</sup> Years in their own area and so on.

On P.E. day students are asked to come to school in their school P.E. gear and stay in it for the day.

#### Student Pack

Each student is requested to have a personal hygiene pack with the following items:

- Face Mask (A reusable face mask will be provided to all students by the school)
- Hand sanitizer gel
- Sanitizing wipes
- A small towel/face cloth

#### Sanitizing Protocols

Please discuss with your daughter the importance of good hand hygiene and coughing/sneezing etiquette.

Hand sanitizer stations will be located at all entry points to the school and a sanitizing/cleaning station in each classroom.

In line with HSE/DES guidelines and to ensure the safety of our students and staff please inform the school if you have been out of the country within the two week period prior to the proposed start of the school year. We would advise your daughter does not return to school within 14 days of her return to the country.

Further information will be emailed to you. Until then, we wish you all the very best, take care and we will see you all soon.

Kind regards,

  
Ms. Marie Mac Cabe,  
Principal.

  
Ms. Ann Farrell,  
Deputy Principal.