



3rd March 2021

Dear Parent / Guardian

### **Post 16: Return to School 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021**

Following an extensive period of remote Teaching and Learning, during which pupils and staff have demonstrated a high level of commitment to engage and enable progression, we are delighted to see the return to school of staff and pupils in Years 12-14 on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021.

This opportunity for face-to-face interaction is a most welcome step forward in terms of curriculum delivery and wellbeing. We are mindful that many pupils have been bereaved or impacted by illness within the family. We are asked to keep all in our prayers and we will continue to nurture pupils on their return.

It is important that pupils are supported and allowed time to re-connect and familiarise themselves with school routine again. We wish to manage the spread of work over the coming weeks and strive for a balance between Teaching, Learning and Assessment.

### **Post 16: Revision of Assessment Dates**

Following consultation and review of correspondence from the Department of Education, the following has been agreed for Post 16 from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March – Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

Previously scheduled and postponed Assessment 2, will now be accommodated before the Easter holidays.

Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2021- Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	Years 13-14: All pupils in class and follow normal timetable
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2021- Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021	Assessment 2: Pupils attend school for scheduled assessments.
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021*	Easter Liturgy TBC

We will ensure pupils are not overwhelmed by an extensive assessment content, we will support them in their preparation and remain confident in the knowledge that each assignment / assessment is one part of a “breadth of evidence.”

- The content of these assessments will be limited and will focus mainly on pre-lockdown Teaching and Learning.
- Timetables are posted on Year Group Teams.
- Pupils will be provided with clear guidance and direction on revision material via Subject / Class Teams.

- Off-screen days will be arranged in advance of 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 to allow pupils to prepare for the return to school and the arrangements outlined.
- Pupils will experience a combination of curriculum delivery and assignments and have the opportunity to demonstrate progression towards their current level of attainment.

Note key points below issued by the Department of Education: A Guide for Parents and Students: 03.02.21.

*“Schools and colleges will make **evidence-based decisions** about the grade they recommend their students be issued. Wherever possible, a **breadth of evidence will inform a teacher’s assessment of their students’ grades**. This may include the student’s performance in any non-examination assessments (practical examinations, controlled assessment or coursework); other class tests and mock examinations, or any other work completed (for example practice examination questions, or extended essays).”*

*“Students will have opportunities to provide evidence of progress until submissions of Centre Determined Grades are made to CCEA in late May 2021.”*

***CCEA Assessment Resource:** “The Assessment Resource is not an external examination. **It will be marked by a student’s class teacher and, if used, may be only one piece of a range of evidence used to inform and support the teachers’ overall assessment.** It is not high stakes like an external exam and will be used alongside a range of other evidence.”*

When pupils and staff return, we remain fully committed to ensuring that the Health and Safety of all is paramount. Pupils will be asked to adhere strictly to their entry / exit guidelines and zones, to wear masks, unless exempt, to maintain social distancing and to observe good hand hygiene practices.

I wish to re-iterate my acknowledgement of the efforts of staff and pupils and my appreciation to Parents and Guardians for your ongoing support.

Stay safe, stay well.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Susan Cullinan  
Principal