



## HM return to school email to all Students 09-04-21

Dear Student

I hope that you had an enjoyable Easter holiday so far. We are looking forward to welcoming you back on Sunday evening and Monday morning and spending an enjoyable summer term with you. For Forms 1-4 it will certainly be an adjustment after spending last term remote-learning: not having to get up early to commute, remember books or wear a uniform or mask; but most of you are eager and excited to see your classmates and resume in-person learning and extra-curricular activities.

**BE KIND** – This recent lockdown has been difficult on many of you and we don't always know what is going on in each other's lives. Please be considerate to each other and avoid any negative comments about appearance. If you sense a student is struggling, please do let your houseperson know, in confidence.

Staff have been working hard over the Easter Break to put the final preparations in place for your safe return. We have 7 weeks in this summer term and our aim is to make it a positive experience for the entire school community, and to ensure a safe environment for all, by setting out our expectations clearly.

Please do not return to school if you have any [Covid-symptoms](#) or are a close contact of a positive case. For peace of mind there are walk-in Covid-testing clinics being set up around Ireland on a rolling basis. Check the [HSE website](#) for details.

A zoom assembly will take place for all students on Monday morning at 9.25am and boarders will have a re-orientation on Sunday evening at 9pm. Please watch the [return to school video](#) again so you can refresh your memory on the necessary Covid-19 protocols.

Since we successfully avoided infection outbreaks in the first term, we must continue to be vigilant and stick to our Covid-prevention protocols throughout the school, especially with the new variants and daily case numbers still in the 100's. Here is a brief recap for the term below:

- **DAY STUDENT DROP OFF - Forms 1, 2 & 3 08:15, Forms 4, 5 & 6 08:30**
  - Drop off and entrance at Mercer Door only
- **DAY STUDENT PICK-UP – Form 1, 2 & 3 15:40 & Forms 4, 5 & 6 15:45**
  - Students can only be collected in the Chapel Carpark
- **MASK-WEARING** is compulsory at all times indoors, and when entering and leaving the school buildings, to attend Sport or PE.
  - Ask at reception for a lanyard to hold mask for Sport or PE, if needed.
  - A new 3-ply mask will be given to all students on return.
  - Ask at reception for a pack of filters if an anxious or medically vulnerable student requires one. A sheet of paper towel is also effective between the layers.
  - Additional masks can be purchased at reception in a pack of 2 for E5 (bank notes only)
- **HAND-SANTISERS** are located throughout the school. Please use them and wash hands with soap frequently.
- **ONE-WAY SYSTEM** is back in operation. This is an effective way to keep students distanced and will be enforced at all times.
- **STAGGERED BREAK AND LUNCHES – NO EATING IN THE CORRIDORS**
  - There will be no cash wallet available for the next term.
  - You can have a snack at breaktime and remove your mask only while eating or drinking.
  - You can go outside or to your assigned areas for break and lunch. Try to go outside for a fresh air break, whenever possible.
  - No unscheduled games (like soccer or basketball) are permitted outdoors under level 5 restrictions.
  - Forms 1-3 will have break at 10:05-10:20 and lunch at 12:20 to 13:00

- Forms 4-6 will have break at 10:45-11:00 and lunch at 13:00 to 13:40
- **SUMMER EXAMS**
  - **Form 6** - All supervised timed-assessments will be completed by May 14<sup>th</sup>, and timetabled classes continue to be taught up to May 28<sup>th</sup>.
  - **Form 3** – End of summer term assessments to be completed before the 28th of May.
  - **Form 1, 2, 4, 5** summer term exams take place the week of May 24<sup>th</sup>.
  - **Form 1 & 3** study skills session will take place next week.
- **BOARDING**
  - Drop off is from 7-9pm only on Sunday evening and each Sunday for the term.
  - Forms 1-5 Girls enter at Mercer door and Boys at reception.
  - Parents to remain in cars.
  - PCR test result taken within 72 hours of return, must be shown on phone or print out to housepeople on arrival Sunday.
  - [Return to school form](#) must be submitted for all boarders before returning to school.
  - Re-orientation will take place on Sunday evening at 9pm.
  - Parents are asked, where possible, to limit weekday appointments to Doctors, Dentists, Physios, to weekends.
  - Parents must email [Cormac UaBruadair](#) before coming on campus outside drop off/pick up times.
- **WELL-BEING**
  - Please ask your parent or guardian to contact our well-being coordinator and school psychotherapist, [Clair Breen](#), if you have been adversely affected by the latest lockdown and require additional supports during school.
- **ECA – [Kerrie O'Reilly](#) & [Derek Maybury](#)**
  - Please find attached this [Trinity Term schedule](#) - this is a provisional schedule that is subject to change at short notice, and in accordance with any updated Government guidelines.
  - **SOCS - Review and Sign-Up** - You must sign up for activities on SOCS: <https://socscms.com/login/1908>. SOCS Support webpage is here [for students](#) or email [sportsandeca@thekingshospital.ie](mailto:sportsandeca@thekingshospital.ie). You can still sign up the first week back but some activities might be full as we have to adhere to bubbles and reduced numbers guidelines.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in ensuring a safe return to school.

Yours,

Mr Ronan

Headmaster / Principal