



June 29, 2020

Dear Parent and Guardian

We are mindful that members of our own families and those of our students are experiencing this pandemic in varying degrees across the globe. We work and live in a closely-knit community and will remain supportive of one another while doing all we can to keep our students and colleagues safe during these uncertain times. Our responsibility to our campus community and to the greater public health is to limit the spread of infection and to mitigate the strain on our health care systems.

It is encouraging that our 'R' number is estimated as close to 0.7* after the easing of restrictions this past month. This has allowed the government to bring forward the lifting of even more restrictions on July 9th, which will include allowing some international travel into Ireland without a quarantine requirement. However, the countries that will be assigned air-corridor status - where quarantine will not be required - is to be re-evaluated every 2 weeks. This creates much uncertainty for families who are trying to make travel plans for holidays and the return to school, and whose country of origin or connecting airport may or may not be a designated air-corridor, come August.

Since early February, our COVID-19 Response Team continues to manage all efforts, including online learning, and disruptions to campus programmes, events, and travel. Our aim is to consider the latest information with thoughtfulness and care, and to anticipate challenges while protecting the health and well-being of our campus community.

As a member of the BSA (Boarding School Association UK), of which there is no equivalent in Ireland, we have attended many webinars and discussions around best-practice for reopening our school. As there is no guidance available from the DES on boarding, we have decided to adopt the [BSA Covid-Safe Charter](#), as it pertains to Irish Schools. Please read the charter to familiarise yourself with all the protocols that will be put in place for both our day and boarding students' return to school. Once we receive the DES protocols for reopening day schools at the end of July, we will update you further. In addition to adopting this BSA Charter we are putting the following rules into effect as it relates to international travel, which will optimise a safe return to school for all students and staff.

New and returning students - resident abroad

All new and returning boarding students who are resident abroad, without family in Ireland, and plan to travel to school for the start of term will be asked to arrive in Ireland for a quarantine period of 2 weeks – between the 15-17th of August. The school will run a residential summer camp experience for students, which includes English classes, curriculum and exam preparation, extra-curricular and sporting activities. Students will be accommodated in single occupancy, en-suite bedrooms on campus, for the duration, with regular temperature checks, social-distancing and additional hygiene protocols in effect throughout the school and campus.





More detail will be provided directly to these parents on cost, travel, safety and hygiene protocols. Our medical centre will offer a full service during this residency.

If you are considering an alternative two-week quarantine arrangement for your child off campus, the school must be notified in advance and subsequently receive a pre-return to school questionnaire, completed and signed by the student and their parents, attesting that they have followed the recommended quarantine protocols.

Any student that has not been in quarantine in Ireland for two weeks prior to the start of school, will not be permitted to board in the school until two-weeks has passed since they entered Ireland.

New and returning boarding students - resident in Ireland

All students will be asked to complete and sign a pre-return to school questionnaire in advance, that to the best of their knowledge in the past two weeks:

- a. They or any member of their household or recent contacts have not contracted Covid-19 or show any symptoms of COVID-19.
- b. They or any member of their household or recent contacts are not awaiting the results of a Covid-19 test,
and
- c. They have not travelled outside the island of Ireland in the two weeks preceding August 31st.

If a student travels to any country outside the island of Ireland, and their return date is **after** the 17th August, they will **not** be permitted to stay in the boarding houses until two weeks has passed since they returned to Ireland, and they meet criteria a & b.

Day students

Day students will be asked to complete and sign a pre-return to school questionnaire in advance, that to the best of their knowledge in the past two weeks:

- a. They or any member of their household or recent contacts have not contracted Covid-19 or show any symptoms of COVID-19.
- b. They or any member of their household or recent contacts are not awaiting the results of a Covid-19 test,
and
- c. They have not travelled outside the island of Ireland in the two weeks preceding August 31st.

We await guidelines from the DES at the end of July as to what constitutes a Covid-safe return to school, which will possibly include self-imposed quarantine for any student that returns to Ireland less than two weeks before the start of school.





Staff Members

All staff members will be adhering to the national return-to-work protocols, as mandated by the Department of Education and Skills, which will also inform our students pre-return to school questionnaire.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support of this school community as we look forward to the coming school year that will undoubtedly bring new challenges as well as a new energy, optimism, and opportunity.

Yours sincerely

Mark Ronan

Headmaster / Principal

