



## New Academic Year 2020/21 – FAQs – 22-5-20

### 1. What date will the school reopen?

Currently we are planning for classes to resume on Monday August 31<sup>st</sup> with the new International boarding students checking-in on Friday August 28<sup>th</sup> then staying over the weekend to familiarise themselves with the school campus.

Form 1 students will have a short induction on the morning of Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup>. All new and returning Irish-resident boarders will check in on Sunday evening, August 30<sup>th</sup>.

If we receive directives to open at a different or staggered time, we will communicate to you immediately.

If a new or returning student is unable to travel due to flight restrictions for the beginning of term we will work individually with students to provide online course work until they are able to travel.

### 2. Will students travelling from abroad have to go into quarantine?

According to the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs Website as of 18-5-20

The Irish Health Authorities require anyone coming into Ireland, apart from Northern Ireland, to self-isolate for 14 days, upon arrival, and to complete a [Public Health Passenger Locator Form](#) to this effect. Check the [Irish Health Service COVID-19 Advice Page](#) for full information on these requirements. This includes Irish residents. Exemptions are in place for providers of essential supply chain services such as hauliers, pilots and maritime staff.

As we go through the summer months this restriction may be lifted, or amended in some way, but we must wait for government guidance.

### 3. Will schools provide quarantine accommodation, or will students have to go to a host family before attending school?

We know that some Agents and Guardians are providing quarantine accommodation for their students with host families, if they arrive 2 weeks before school starts, so please check with your agent/guardian.

We are also working to prepare quarantine accommodation in advance, should students require it. We await further clarification from the government health authorities on best practice to optimise health and safety requirements for our students, while keeping them engaged in suitable ESL and well-being activities.

### 4. Will a full timetable of classes run when school starts back?

We await Public Health guidance on social distancing in a school environment but remain hopeful that the class timetable will resume in full.

If some form of distance-learning is still required or a staggering of classes necessary, we will provide as much advance notice as possible.



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### **5. What plan will be in place for the boarders and their dormitories?**

We await Public Health guidance for residential student accommodation and in the meantime are closely watching best practice in countries such as Australia, and New Zealand, which reopened schools on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **6. How will students socially distance in classrooms, the dining hall and social spaces?**

As we await Government health and safety guidance, we are already planning contingencies to reduce student congestion throughout the school, should this still be required when school reopens.

### **7. What will you do to prevent the spread of infection among the students and staff?**

Since the school became aware of Covid-19 in January of this year, we instantly initiated the measures recommended by the Public Health Service, and students and staff were highly adaptive to this. We are confident that students and staff, having become accustomed to the restrictive measures in place since March, will once again adapt to whatever protocols are deemed necessary to keep themselves and their families safe.

We are committed to implementing Public Health requirements and physical distancing, as appropriate for the context, and will work closely to ensure a safe environment where students can continue their learning

Students will need to maintain distance-learning capability to help manage within these constraints, and ensure safety of staff and students at risk of COVID-19. Day students and Irish resident boarding students will be asked to self-isolate at home if they have been exposed to the virus, and International students may be asked to self-isolate with a host family.

### **8. What is your plan to prevent an outbreak of Covid-19 or similar in the school?**

We will continue our good practices from the onset of Covid-19 by:

#### **Playing it safe:**

The general principles are to keep out of each other's breathing space and to avoid touching. This is supported by good hygiene safety practices:

- Plenty of hand washing and hand sanitiser with regular reinforcement to use it.
- Maintain proper sneezing/ coughing etiquette.
- Heightened cleaning throughout the day.
- Health and safety signage as reinforcement.
- Social distancing floor markings internally and externally.
- Traffic flow systems internally and externally.
- Limited sharing of goods/food.



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- We will minimise visitors to the school and limit them to the front reception area.
- Contractors will have their own rules to follow around hygiene and contact tracing.
- Additional precautions, such as the wearing of masks, will be taken if determined necessary by the Health Service.
- A comprehensive Covid-19 policy with addendums to existing policies will be issued to all school partners highlighting preventative measures and actions.
- Videos tutorials on new procedures and processes to be available in advance of the school start date, providing education and training for staff and students.

#### **9. Should there be another outbreak of COVID 19 or similar virus, how will this be managed in the school?**

Our school has an on-site medical centre where one of our registered nurses is on duty 24/7. We also have a school doctor who advises on our medical processes and is on call for students as well as holding twice-weekly clinics. Any student population is at risk of the spread of communicable diseases and our medical centre staff receive ongoing training in this area.

When the risk of Covid-19 first became a Public Health issue, medical protocols were immediately put in place for the prevention and diagnosis of the virus along with awareness for staff, parents and students of symptoms and whom they had been in contact with. Isolation rooms were also prepared but thankfully not needed. If Covid-19 or a similar virus were to become a Public Health concern again, we would initiate all prevention, diagnosis, contact tracing and quarantine protocols immediately and parents would be advised of the next steps. A list of communications sent to parents from the onset of Covid-19 can be viewed [here](#).

#### **International Students**

On March 12<sup>th</sup> the government announced that all schools must close that evening at 6pm. Anticipating that this might happen we were in contact with all agencies, guardians and parents in the preceding weeks to ensure that non-resident students would have either a host family to go to or arrange for flights home. Each and every student was monitored to ensure their safety and well-being, until we were satisfied they had reached their arranged destination.

It is important when choosing a guardian for your child this year that you discuss arrangements in the event of this occurring again, and that they are in position to organise a host family at short notice, if your child was unable to travel home immediately.

#### **10. Will contact sports be allowed?**

We await Government health and safety guidelines around all sports, and will ensure that a safe and appropriate exercise program is in place for all students, should contact sport be restricted.