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Coláiste Rís

Roll No. 638800

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope you are all well. I am writing this letter to keep you updated on the many changes that will come into place in the new school year. I know this is a time of great uncertainty but we are working very hard to ensure that Coláiste Rís is a safe environment for all students and staff to return to in the coming weeks.

Message from the Chairperson of the Board of Management

New Appointments to Principal and Deputy Principal

The Board of Management of Coláiste Rís Dundalk are delighted to announce that Ms Nóilín Ni Dhulaing has accepted the position of Principal and that Mr John Moylan has accepted the position of Deputy Principal following interviews and nominations from the Interview Panel over the Summer. We wish them both good fortune and every success in the future.

Brian Murtagh, Chairperson, Board of Management

Opening Dates and times

There will be Covid-19 training and induction days for all members of staff on August 27th & 28th.

Students will begin returning to school on Monday August 31st. This will be on a staggered basis for the first week. This will be over a longer period of time than every other year due to new information and procedures and also due to social distancing guidelines. The following is a **proposed schedule for students to return.**

Day and Date	Time	Group
Mon Aug 31st	08.45 to 12.20	6 th Years
Mon Aug 31st	13.00 to 15.45	2P & 2Q
Tue Sept 1st	08.45 to 12.20	5 th Years
Tue Sept 1st	13.00 to 15.45	2S & 2R
Wed Sept 2nd	08.45 to 13.00	Transition Year
Thurs Sept 3rd	08.45 to 12.00	3P, 3Q & 3R
Thurs Sept 3rd	13.00 to 15.45	3S & 3T
Fri Sept 4th	08.45 to 15.45 (Full Day)	1 st Years

Student Information

The following is a list of some of the changes that will be in place on the student's return to school

- Student based classrooms. The students will be based in their own rooms to minimise movement and contact between classes.
- Lockers. Students will **not** have use of their lockers this year. They will still require books and will be informed of the procedures for use of books in school on induction day.
- **Breaks.** Morning breaks will be staggered in 3 separate blocks. Lunch breaks are already staggered in Coláiste Rís. There will be designated areas for each year group during break times.
- **Canteen.** The canteen will be open but we encourage a packed lunch where possible.
- **Movement.** There will one-way systems of movement in operation throughout the school. Clear signage will be in place to guide students throughout the building.
- **Hand Hygiene.** There are new hand sanitisers on entry to every classroom and new hand wash stations throughout the school.
- **Cleaning.** Regular cleaning and sanitising of classrooms, desks, chairs etc. will be part of the daily routine.
- **Sharing equipment.** Students will not be allowed to share personal belongings such as pens, pencils, books etc.
- **Extra classrooms.** We are in the process of increasing the number of classrooms available by reconfiguring the space already available in the school.

Parent Information

- If you have not already done so, please download the **school app**. All information from the school will be uploaded on the school app. This is very important.
- Facemasks will required where 2m social distancing cannot be adhered to. Therefore, students will be required to have facemasks as part of their school equipment on return.
- Please encourage the appropriate cough and sneeze etiquette as well as hand hygiene procedures at home in the coming weeks.

This is not an exhaustive list and more information will be made available in the coming weeks. We are currently working to ensure Coláiste Rís is a safe environment for all of the school community. With all the implications of the Covid-19 pandemic, this is a large body of work but we are confident we will have everything in place in time for the return of all students. **Please be aware that this is an ever-changing climate and the above dates may need to be changed. Please keep an eye on the school app and the school website.**

We thank you for your understanding at this time and your continued support of Coláiste Rís.

Is Mise Le Meas,

Nóilín Ní Dhulaing