



Holy Trinity College

9-29 Chapel Street
COOKSTOWN
Co Tyrone
BT80 8QB

Principal: Mrs I Russell BA (Hons) MTD PQH (NI)

A Specialist Sports and English Academy

19 March 2021

Dear Parent / Guardian

I hope you and your family are keeping safe and well, and that our girls and boys have had a slightly more relaxed week due to school closure mid-week. It has been a challenging year since this time last year and I am extremely proud of the efforts of staff, pupils and parents/guardians in supporting each other and ensuring that learning continued as best as possible either in school or remotely.

We are looking forward to Years 12 – 14 returning to school on Monday 22 March and to hear the sound of their voices and laughter. Revised documentation was forwarded last Friday and can also be found on the College Website (12th March – A Parent and Pupil Guide to a Return to School). We hope the information reassures you that Holy Trinity College is safe for our pupils and staff to return to school, and that all procedures will be reviewed on a regular basis.

Key to students returning is their well-being. Time will be set aside on Monday for students to reflect, rekindle and re-engage with peers and staff. Emotional support will be provided as required to allay any fears about returning to school, to becoming familiar with procedures, and to reassuring Exam Groups of high-quality teaching to verify Centre Determined Grades at GCSE, AS and A Level.

Staff will continue to prepare and teach in three areas:

- ✓ Face to Face Teaching of Years 12 – 14 and including Year 11 H1 GCSE Maths
- ✓ Remote Learning for Years 8 – 11
- ✓ Supervised Learning for vulnerable children and children of Key Workers.

Whilst student well-being is key, so too is student consolidation of learning for Exam Year Groups. The period up to Easter will be spent consolidating work and preparing students for assessments to be held after Easter. Every opportunity will be afforded to our students to provide as much **subject evidence** as possible, so that they are awarded the grades they deserve. Subject evidence is crucial so that exam grades awarded will reflect the standard at which your son/daughter is working, taking into account the disruption which your child has faced in their learning throughout this year and last year if applicable. From 22 March, Students in Years 12 – 14 need to attend every day, be punctual to school and all lessons, work hard, complete work required and have a positive attitude to success. A Timetable of Assessments will be distributed before the Easter Break.

We continually refer to high expectations whilst in school. This has not changed. Students will be expected to follow procedures regarding Health & Safety, Attendance, Uniform, Presentation, Equipment, Behaviour and Learning. High Expectations ensures Holy Trinity College remains a **‘very good school’**. We will be consistent in our efforts to ensure that pupils follow procedures appropriately.



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Face Coverings: These must be worn by adults and are compulsory for pupils in post primary schools, in classrooms and when moving about the school in corridors, canteen, Library, Post 16 Study and confined communal areas (including toilets) where physical distancing is particularly difficult to maintain. If your child is exempt, please notify the College as soon as possible so that an Exemption card can be issued.

Transport: All school transport will operate as normal. Face coverings must be worn on all transport.

Canteen: School Canteen facilities will be available before school, at Break and at Lunch time.

Pupils must wear a face covering upon entering the Canteen. Supervised pupils and children of Key Workers may buy a snack at Break Time, but they must bring a **Packed Lunch** with them for lunchtime.

Covid-19 Symptoms: Pupils should not attend school if they or their household are displaying any symptoms such as: **a high temperature, a new continuous cough, or loss of smell or taste.**

Environment: The front railings and gates are being painted this week. What a remarkable difference it is making!

Mobile Phones: These should be switched off upon entering the school gates, and be kept out of sight at all times during the school day, including break and lunchtimes.

Laptops/Chromebooks: Years 13 & 14 who received school digital devices should bring these to school every day to use in class and in Study. The student is responsible for the device at all times.

Testing: The Department of Education and Department of Health jointly announced this week that all staff in Post Primary schools and all Year 12, 13 and 14 students will be offered lateral flow testing. This is a voluntary process. We await further guidance as to what is involved.

Examination Results: Congratulations to students in Agriculture, Media Studies and Business Studies who achieved excellent GCSE modular and A Level results on Wednesday past. This is testimony to their hard work and that of their teachers during this difficult period. Well done everyone! Returning to school will be a very positive step for our young people. Their safety and well-being is our highest priority. All staff in Holy Trinity College will continue to support each and every pupil wherever possible. If there are concerns, pupils should talk to their Form Teacher or Head of Year in the first instance. Equally, Parent/Guardians should contact the College on 028 8676 2420 or email info@holytrinityc.cookstown.ni.sch.uk if you have any additional concerns.

Please continue to keep safe and look after yourselves. We still need to play our part in following the guidelines so that all our children can return to school. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Isabel R Russell

Isabel Russell

Principal