



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

12 March 2021

Dear Parent / Guardian

I hope you and your family are keeping safe and well. As always, I thank you for your support and congratulate our young people on their engagement with remote learning and the brilliant work they are presenting on a daily basis.

We are moving closer to Years 12 – 14 returning to school on Monday 22 March. It will be exciting to welcome our girls and boys back to the College and hear their familiar laughter and chat. We know it has been difficult for many but we are very proud of how our pupils have conducted themselves over the past few months and how resilient they have been, even since last March 2020.

Department of Education Restart Key points:

- ✓ Years 12 – 14 will return to school on Monday 22 March – Wednesday 31 March.
- ✓ Year 11 GCSE Maths Group (20 pupils) may present for face to face teaching on specified days and times (see Parent & Pupil Guide to a Return to School).
- ✓ Years 8 – 11 will continue to engage with remote learning until further notice.
- ✓ Vulnerable children and children of Key Workers may present to school by prior arrangement.
- ✓ It is compulsory for post primary pupils to wear face coverings in school and at drop off/pick up areas unless an exemption applies (page 37 DENI Education Restart).
- ✓ **Face coverings** must be worn by adults and are compulsory for pupils/young people in post-primary schools (including independent and grant aided schools), in classrooms and when moving about the school in corridors and confined communal areas (including toilets) where physical distancing is particularly difficult to maintain (page 37 DENI Education Restart).
- ✓ In line with the current arrangements for public transport, it is mandatory for all pupils of post-primary age to wear a face covering on public transport or school transport unless they have a reasonable excuse not to. Examples of reasonable excuses include physical or mental impairment or disability, and causing severe distress (page 37 DENI Education Restart).
- ✓ **Pupil Attendance:** It is expected that pupils in Years 12 - 14 will present to school on a daily basis. However, due to Covid-19, individual circumstances may prevail and this may not be possible. If your child is clinically extremely vulnerable or there are other medical reasons preventing your child from returning to school, please notify the College as soon as possible. In these circumstances, learning should be completed at home. If evidence cannot be provided as above, your son/daughter's attendance will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. This may impact on Centre Determined Grades and future career pathways.

The **Parent and Pupil Guide to a Return to School** has been updated to reflect recent changes and is attached with this letter. Please take the time to read through the document with your son/daughter in order to prepare them for their return to Holy Trinity College. **Remote Learning will cease on Tuesday 16 March at 1.30pm to enable a virtual Staff Meeting with regard to the Return to School and Exam updates.**



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Examination update: We await further guidance from the Examination Boards with regard to the awarding of Centre Determined Grades at GCSE, AS and A2 Level. We recognise that students are extremely anxious at this stage and wish to reassure both students and parents/guardians that 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. Upon your return to school, time will be afforded for re-integration with your peers and staff, alongside preparation of unit assessments. Assessments will not occur until after Easter. We request that Exam students continue to engage daily in their remote learning and present work to the best of their ability. 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 the year.

Post Primary Applications: The Primary 7 Admissions process to Post Primary schools will close on Tuesday 16th March at 4.00pm. All applications must be placed online via the EA website www.eani.org.uk. If you have any concerns about the Post Primary Admissions process, please do not hesitate to contact the College on 028 8676 2420. Similarly, if you are aware of other pupils and parents who are considering Holy Trinity College as their Post Primary school, please share this information with them as well. They too are very welcome to contact the College for further information.

Environment: You may have wondered what has happened to our school railings and gates!. I am delighted that the EA have agreed to fund the painting of the railings and gates. They have been power washed this week and hopefully, painting will commence next week. It will be a great transformation.

Additional activities: Congratulations to all pupils who have been submitting entries to competitions for Seachtain na Gaeilge and Science week. Sadly, we have not had our usual 'ceol agus craic' in the College leading up to St. Patrick's Day, but I recommend the College Facebook for a lookback at past events. I also extend my thanks to Hannah Ní Dhoibhlin 13 JMK who provided a terrific overview of what we are missing out on at this time in school. Science is concentrating on Recycled Inventions – a great way to use up all recyclable materials, and the Maths Department will keep the boys and girls busy over the weekend in preparation for Pi Day on Sunday. We never stop the learning process!

Holidays: School will be closed on Wednesday 17 March and Thursday 18 March. Remote learning will resume on Friday 19 March.

All staff in Holy Trinity College will continue to support each and every pupil wherever possible. Our pupils are completing amazing work every week and they are well guided and encouraged by you, their parents/guardians. If you have any concerns at all, please do not hesitate to contact the College on 028 8676 2420 or email info@holytrinityc.cookstown.ni.sch.uk.

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 Russell

Isabel Russell

Principal