



## Monaghan Collegiate School Start of School 2021/22 Arrangements

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope that you and your family are all keeping well; we are acutely aware that the spectre of Covid is still with us and that some families are still under severe strain. As we approach the start of a new year we hope and pray that things will steadily improve and that we can soon return to normal. My anticipation of a better future is rooted in the optimism of youth that the students always bring and the confidence that I have in the goodness of God.

The school will reopen for students on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> August as indicated below:

**Buses will run in the morning from Monday 30<sup>th</sup> August. Students must be collected from school at 12.00pm on Monday; thereafter buses will run as normal.**

TERM 1		
2020		
27 <sup>th</sup> August	09.30 - 4.00	Staff Preparation Day
30 <sup>th</sup> August	09.00 – 12.00	1 <sup>st</sup> Form induction day 5 <sup>th</sup> Form return
August 31 <sup>st</sup>	08.50 – 16.00	2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> Form return
3 <sup>rd</sup> September	08.50 – 16.00	LC results
6 <sup>th</sup> September	08.50 – 16.00	4 <sup>th</sup> Form return.

All plans and schedules are made subject to Department of Education and Skills guidelines

### **A. Regulations for reopening the school**

The main measures being implemented are as follows:

#### **1. Face masks:**

- Students and staff are still required to wear face masks inside the school building.
- Students who for a medical reason can't wear a mask should speak to the Principal/Deputy Principal as soon as possible.
- Students should provide and maintain their own masks.
- Face masks must be worn on public transport.

#### **2. Hand sanitisers:**

- Hand sanitisers are placed at all building entrances and classroom entrances, students are requested to use these sanitisers on entering the room.
- Students are also encouraged to have their own personal hand sanitiser in their pocket and to use it as they require.

#### **3. Students should follow Covid etiquette:**

- Students should maintain social distancing where possible.
- Hand washing; Students should wash their hands regularly, particularly after using the toilet. Students should wash their hands for 20 seconds using soap. Students should dry their hands using paper towels and dispose of the towels in a bin.

- c. Students are also encouraged to use paper tissues should they need to blow their nose, disposing of the tissues in a bin.

#### **4. Break and Lunch arrangements,**

- a. The school will return to one lunchtime at 1.10pm lasting until 2.00pm. There will be no short break in the afternoon.
- b. There will be no hot lunch provision in the current emergency, so students are required to bring a packed lunch.
- c. Microwaves or hot water provision will not be available. Students may bring a hot drink in an appropriate travel cup if desired.

#### **5. Physical Education:**

- a. As part of wellbeing the school considers PE to be an important part of the school curriculum and as such it is important that the school can continue to provide PE. On days that students have PE timetabled, they will be required to come to school in their school PE uniform and remain in it during the day.

#### **6. Sickness:**

- a. Under no circumstances should students come to school if they have a high temperature.
- b. It is absolutely essential that students who are feeling unwell in any way stay at home. Students who are unfit to attend school should follow the guidance of the HSE
- c. Parents should inform the school office by phone or by emailing [mcsattendance@monaghcollegiateschool.ie](mailto:mcsattendance@monaghcollegiateschool.ie) on the first day of absence.
- d. Students who feel unwell in school for whatever reason will have their temperature taken. If it is outside the normal range they will be isolated and parents called to take them home.
- e. If students are unfit to return to class they will be required to go home.

### **B. Teaching and Learning**

#### **1. Form 6**

Form 6 students will face many challenges this year in making up lost time. It is absolutely essential that Form 6 students give their full attention to their school work and ensure that their attendance is as full as possible. It is important that students do not rely on possible concessions for next year's examinations as to date the only concession being considered is a greater choice of questions in the examination.

#### **2. Form 3**

Form 3 students face many challenges in the incoming year, so attendance and effort must be 100%. Only one CBA will be included in the final result.

#### **3. Transition Year**

Transition Year will probably continue to be the year that will be most affected by Covid. However, we are hopeful that opportunities for school trips etc will soon open up. Academically there is still a

hole in TY students learning from last year and students should make every effort to recover some of the deficit in learning that the pandemic disruption has caused.

#### 4. Other Year groups

Good attendance and committed engagement again have to be emphasised. Students must grasp with both hands every opportunity to learn.

#### C. Uniform:

##### 1. Standard school uniform is as stated

Last year due to the pandemic school regulations on uniform were somewhat relaxed. Full uniform regulations will be implemented from the beginning of the new school term. I firmly believe in the benefits of wearing school uniform and all studies concur that it helps improve collegiality and ultimately performance. I urge parents to support the school in this matter by encouraging your son daughter to wear their uniform with pride.

BOYS	GIRLS
School blazer	School blazer
Dark grey flannel trousers	Black skirt (polyester/viscose)
White shirt	White shirt
School tie	School tie
School jumper (optional)	School jumper (optional)
Black school shoes (not canvas)	Black school shoes (not canvas)
Grey/black socks	Black knee socks/ plain black tights
School crested coat	School crested coat

##### 2. PE uniform

A standard PE uniform is available and is required and is required for Junior school and transition year. Fifth form students must wear the school mid-layer jumper and T shirt and may wear alternative black tracksuit bottoms. Sixth form may wear any school branded top or another black top and may wear alternative black tracksuit bottoms.

PE uniform can be purchased online at

- [www.monaghancollegiateschool.ie](http://www.monaghancollegiateschool.ie) clicking on uniform shop
- Password - MC2021

#### D. In Conclusion

This year will be another challenging one for all of us, but I am confident that the collegiate community has all that it takes to deal with those challenges. I am always available to speak to parents should you have concerns. I ask for your cooperation, forbearance and prayers. Ultimately with God's help we can approach the new academic year with confidence.

Yours in education,



Principal