

# Update to Students and Parents/Guardians (March 2021)

## Outline of Arrangements for Students' Return to School

### Confirmed Dates for Return of Students to School



On the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021 Peter Weir, NI Minister for Education, announced a phased return to full time face-to-face teaching for students in certain year groups.

- Students in Years 12 - 14, who will be awarded qualifications in summer 2021, will return to full time face-to-face teaching with effect from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021.
- While it is the Minister's objective to have a full return of all students to face-to-face teaching in school as soon as practicably possible after the Easter break, further information has yet to be provided on this matter.
- Students in Years 8 – 11 will continue to engage in remote learning (until the school is notified otherwise) and **should continue to follow their normal class timetable from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021.**
- Students in Years 12 – 14 attending school from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 will have their attendance recorded using the normal school attendance codes.
- Occupational Studies pupils will not be attending the SRC until 16<sup>th</sup> April at the earliest (date will be confirmed by the school) so attendance at online SRC lessons will continue.

### Face Coverings



- The latest scientific advice from the World Health Organisation, and from the Chief Medical Officer and Chief Scientific Officer, is that face coverings should be worn within education settings unless an exemption applies.
- It is compulsory for post primary students to wear face coverings in school and at drop off pick up areas unless an exemption applies.
- Face coverings are compulsory for students in post-primary 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.

### School Transport



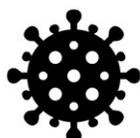
- School transport will operate as normal from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March to Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March (i.e. until the planned Easter break) for Year 12-14 students.
- Post-primary students **must** wear a face covering on transport (medical exemptions may apply).

### School Meals



- School meals service will operate as normal from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March to Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March (i.e. until planned Easter break) for Year 12-14 students.
- Direct payment from DE will be made to all children on remote learning entitled to Free School Meals.

### Bubble Management



- For students in Years 8 – 10, the school will resume its operation of single consistent groups (bubbles), the purposes of which are to reduce the total number of contacts every individual has and to make the identification of contacts easier should a case of COVID-19 be confirmed within the school.
- When students return, all relevant DENI and PHA guidance will be followed, with a particular emphasis placed on maintaining social distancing and operating year group bubbles in as far as that is possible whilst maintaining effective curriculum delivery.