



25th August 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians

I hope this email finds you well. Further to my last email we are on schedule as much as possible, as you may be aware due to the storm last week we were without electricity for two days which set our builders back a little, as a result there are a few changes to our return dates for some years.

Wednesday, 2nd Sept First Years

Thursday, 3rd Sept First Years and Leaving Certs

Friday, 4th Sept First Years, Leaving Certs and Third Years

Monday, 7th Sept No Students

As you may be aware the Leaving Cert Results for this year are being released on Monday, 7th. Sept. To give last year's Leaving Certs the opportunity to speak with staff and meet with myself and Mr Jordan the school will be closed to all other students on health and safety grounds.

I hope you understand this day is very important to last year's Leaving Cert students and we appreciate your co-operation.

Tuesday, 8th Sept First Years, Leaving Certs, Third Years, Fifth Years and Second Years

Wednesday, 9th Sept All students plus Transition Year students.

As each year group returns they will meet with their Form Teachers and a substantial amount of time will be devoted to explanation and information about protocol for the year ahead.

Covid 19 has meant we have had to introduce some changes.

1. All students are required to wear a mask (which they must purchase themselves) in class at all times. It is also recommended that students have their own labelled mini hand sanitiser.

2. During breaks and lunchtime if a two-metre distance cannot be observed between students it is also recommended that they wear their mask.

3. We have redesigned the school in the following way, each year group will be assigned a section of the school (well sign posted) They are required to remain in this area.

4. In the new arrangements students will stay in a room assigned to them for all classes except for Art, Home Economics, Construction, Woodwork, DCG, Science, Tech Graph and Music. The teacher will move from class to class unlike the old system.

5. Break time will be the same for all students 11.05 to 11.20 am. During this time students will be well supervised and required to stay in their assigned areas.
6. Lunch time is slightly different this year. 12.40 to 1.20 Lunch Time for TY, Fifth Years and Leaving Certs. (Canteen facilities available as before). 1.20 to 1.50 Lunch Time for First, Second and Third Years. **As always First Years will receive a free lunch on their first day.**
7. School will finish at the normal time of 3.55 pm at which time all students will be required to sanitise their own work station with equipment provided.
8. All year groups will be assigned an entrance and exit which again will be well sign posted. Leaving Certs and Fifth Years will use the Prefab door at the rear of the building. Transition Years will use the Gym Door at the side of the building. Third Years will use the entrance at the rear of the building beside room 11. Second Years will be located across the road in the 67 Building. First Years will use student entrance in the new building at the side of the school.
9. Unfortunately, parents and visitors will be extremely limited in their access to the school at all times, I apologise, but appointments and prior notice must be given before arriving at the school. This will apply to all school visitors not just parents. This is for health and safety reasons and again we look forward to your co-operation.
10. Due to restrictions students will be unable to use the lockers this year. We are recommending that students acquire a plastic box (similar to Primary School) that will fit under their desk for their books. First Years will be provided with their box by the school.
11. Students are required to wear their full uniform. We are well aware of all the media discussion that has surrounded uniforms, however, we still feel that the wearing of a uniform will create less hassle and stress as opposed to non-uniform. Students will be allowed to wear a warm jacket of their choice in the winter time as we plan to have rooms well ventilated.
12. **First Years Only: Book Rental Scheme. First Year core subject textbooks will be available for collection on Tuesday, 1st Sept from 2pm to 4pm in the college. The remaining First Year textbooks will be distributed by the class teacher in their classroom. For parents availing of this scheme the cost is €200 payable on the day, cheque or cash in an envelope with your child's name on the envelope. We are recommending that a parent attend to pick up the books, please wear a mask and social distancing will apply.**
13. All fees, except locker which is no longer available are to be paid to Form teacher in the next few weeks. All payments should be in an envelope with your child's name, year group and class name and details of what payment is for, to be on outside of the envelope. We appreciate all payments made to the school in relation to the different items listed.
14. **As you may or may not be aware we run very successful PLC courses each year. This year the courses are being run over two days, Tuesday and Wednesday. Childcare, Healthcare and Business are our three main courses and we have a huge success rate in employment from these courses. There are forty places each year and limited number of places are still available. Should you have interest in any of the above please contact the school for details. In the present climate and moving forward the job opportunities in these areas will be massive and this qualification which you can receive over two days a week is invaluable. Brochures, Applications and details on website: stcuans.ie**
15. I would like to draw your attention to the work that has taken place in the school over the last number of weeks. A large amount of Department money has been spent and we are asking for the co-operation of all students to respect the facilities and equipment moving forward.

Finally, the year ahead is very much heading into the unknown, however, I would like to reassure you as parents and guardians that everything possible will be done in order for your son or daughter to settle back into school and receive the excellent education and pastoral care St Cuans is renowned for.

On an upbeat note the design team for the new building has been appointed and following the application for planning permission over the next couple of months, building should commence towards the middle of next year. We look forward to further enhancing our excellent facilities.

While physical access to the school is limited due to Covid 19 please feel free to ring at any time should you have concerns or problems in the future.

God Bless
Collette Kennedy Walsh
Principal