

## School Reopening Information

Dear Parent/Guardian

Everyone is delighted to be welcoming back all our students to BCS in the coming week, especially our new cohort of 1<sup>st</sup> year students who are making the milestone move into secondary school.

Our staff and students return in the secure knowledge that all public health guidelines will continue to be adhered to in Blackwater Community School to maintain a healthy and safe school environment.

All the necessary precautions such as social distanced classroom layout, staggered breaks, restricted access to school building, one way circulation system, washing and sanitising facilities, designated social areas and entry routes, signage and procedures for dealing with suspected cases remain in place for the coming academic year. We wish to reaffirm the importance of keeping COVID-19 out of our school community by keeping symptomatic students at home. Parents should err on the side of caution in this respect:

**The symptoms to be aware of are as follows:**

- High temperature or fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties
- Loss or change to sense of taste or smell
- Fatigue, sore throat, headache, runny/stuffy nose etc. can also be symptoms

**Face Masks:** All staff and students in post primary school must wear high quality washable cloth face masks or disposable mask. Please ensure your son/daughter has several of these available to them before their return.

**Students must always keep their masks on when inside the school building. This includes at breaktimes and lunchtimes, except when eating or drinking.**

**There will be zero tolerance to any breach of Covid-19 regulations in BCS**

With the support of parent/guardian the following checklist will help our students return in an organised manner and everyone's full cooperation is greatly appreciated.

- **Uniform:** All students return to school in full and correct black/ grey school uniform. **PE uniform will only be worn on the day of timetabled PE class.** Students will ensure that any additional clothing is not visible under their school shirts/jumpers.
- **Class resources:** All students are expected to return with the stationery and class materials required as no sharing of resources will be permitted, details will be given to them during their induction by tutors and class teachers. Books which need to be brought to school will be kept to a minimum and details will be given by the class teacher.
- **PR Journal:** All students must have a school PR journal; this is to be brought to every class and used by all students to record homework and assignments throughout the school day. Parent are asked to check and sign this on a weekly basis.
- **Punctuality:** The school day starts at a 8.40am tutor meeting, all students must attend this meeting and have their attendance signed in. If your son /daughter is being signed out during the day a note needs to be given to their tutor at this time.
- **Leaving school:** All students are expected to be in class for the full school day, if they have appointments or are feeling unwell, they must be collected and signed out by a parent/guardian from the **school reception area**. There is no exception to this procedure as it is in accordance with child protection guidelines.
- **School Traffic:** Due to our current building project and increased site traffic, we are asking parents/guardians to always drop their son/daughter away from the school campus. Additional pedestrian measures are in place to ensure safety of students walking to the school.

- **Packed Lunch:** As there are no canteen facilities and students are not allowed to leave the school campus during the school day, all students are required to bring a healthy packed lunch and drink for break and lunchtime.