



RE: Re-opening of St. Paul's Community College

Monday 10th August, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope you and your families are keeping well.

As you are aware, our school has now been closed since 12th March due to the COVID-19 situation. We are now hoping to re-open our school safely, in line with current guidance and recommendations. We have been back in school since early August doing our very best to make sure it is safe place for all our staff and students. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued patience and support during this difficult time.

Re-opening the school safely will require the co-operation of all members of our school community – WWETB, Board of Management, school leadership, staff, parents and students. We will all be called on to play our part in ensuring that re-opening of the school is done in a safe manner which prevents the spread of the virus and allows the vital work of teaching and learning to proceed with as little disruption as possible.

We are working on our plan for the safe reopening of the school for some weeks now and will publish our *COVID-19 Response Plan* to our school website when it is finalised.

The Response Plan will give details of

- Physical preparation, signage, hand sanitiser stations;
- Advice, procedures and training for the safe return to working in the school for all school staff and students;
- General and specific advice on how all pupils, staff, parents and visitors will prevent the spread of the virus.

At present we are working on and implementing the following:

- A deep clean of the school
- Reducing class sizes to insure 1 and 2 metre distancing
- Student based classrooms for some year groups
- Hour long classes to reduce movement
- One way systems around the school
- Extra toilets
- Supply of PPE, each student will be given 3 washable facemasks and we will hold a supply of disposable masks in the school.
- Student Plan for return to school.

We will also provide our COVID-19 Policy Statement to the school website when finalised. In the meantime, families should prepare for the return to school in the usual way in terms of uniform, stationery supplies, etc. The documentation regarding reopening contains no guidance on uniforms. As such, the policy on the school uniform remains the same. As always, parents will use their own judgement regarding the frequency of laundering the uniform. It is more important than ever that students have all the equipment that they need on returning to school, please see lists for each year group on our website.

Our first school week will be a phased return giving staff members and each year group adequate time for training in the new systems that will be in place. Please see dates attached below.

We are really looking forward to welcoming our students back to school and will be doing all that we can to ensure that the return to school is a safe and enjoyable experience for the everyone. We will be in touch with you again next week regarding your child's return.

Yours sincerely,

Fiona McDonnell

2020-2021 Return to School Dates

Thursday 27 th August	All Staff	
Friday 28 th August	All Staff	
Monday 31 st August	6 th Year and 6 th Year LCA	10-1pm
Tuesday 1 st September	3 rd Year	10-1pm
Wednesday 2 nd September	5 th Year and 5 th Year LCA	10-1pm
Thursday 3 rd September	2 nd Year	10-1pm
Friday 4 th September	4 th Year	10-1pm
Monday 7 th September	1 st Year	10-1pm
Tuesday 8 th September	All students return	9.00-3.45pm