Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you know, the school is due to re-open on the week beginning Monday August 31st. Preparations are on-going here at school and we are making every effort to ensure our school implements practices in line with Department of Education and Science guidelines.

School will be a very different experience for us all this year, and while we have put procedures in place, we don't know exactly how these will work out until we put them into practice and it is possible we will need to review them.

The good news is that, as things stand at present, our students will return on the week commencing August 31st (as shown below) and attend fully, something we are all looking forward to.

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| **Year group** | **Date** |
| Re-Opening 1st & 2nd Years *(Half day)* | Monday 31st August 2020 |
| Re-opening, 3rd & 6th years *(Half day)* | Tuesday 1st September 2020 |
| Re-Opening 5th years *(Half day)* | Wednesday 2nd September 2020 |
| Re-Opening LCA1 | Thursday 3rd September 2020 |
| LCA 2 return  | Monday 7th September 2020  |

In preparation for our reopening our school have prepared our own school Covid-19 response plan. A copy of this plan can be found on our school website. Our staff have completed Covid related training, and a full co-vid related risk assessment has been undertaken in our school.

Please find below a synopsis of key information from our response plan. Please take time to read the following carefully.

**Use of face coverings in school**

Face

**Please note** In line with our department of Education and Science guidelines:

 *Students must wear a face covering where a social distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained.*

We have had to make some changes to classroom layouts to accommodate every student.

Fortunately, due to smaller numbers in our school, your child will not have to wear a face covering in most of our general classrooms as we have achieved a 2-metre spacing. If your child wishes to wear a covering in these classrooms that is perfectly fine.

**Times when students must wear a face covering in Corran College are shown below:**

* All practical classrooms
* In room 4 (when numbers exceed 12 students)
* At lockers
* When travelling between classes
* While moving inside the building at morning time, breaktime, lunchtime and after 4pm.

 Please ensure your child has a clean face covering with them each day to school. A disposal face covering will be provided by the school in the event your child forgets theirs (within reason). Students may wear a mask of their choosing (similar to one provided) once it is not offensive or a distraction. No snood or bandana type face coverings permitted.

***Important information to note before your child returns to school***

* Designated entrances and exits have been defined with clear signage.
* Social distancing at school lockers must be adhered to, where possible extra books will be supplied for home use.
* School uniforms policy remains in place. It is recommended that uniforms are changed regularly, as students are encouraged to cough/sneeze into their elbows
* Sanitizers will be in place at each entrance, in each room and around the building. PPE (visors, face coverings, gloves,) will be available.
* Hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette and social distancing will be promoted and encouraged, and parents/guardians are asked to support the school in reinforcing this message.
* Sanitising wipes will be provided to student to clean their workspaces and any equipment used during the lesson
* Parents cannot enter the school building without an appointment. A contact log will be maintained at all times.
* An isolation room will be in place (beside girls toilet) for suspected Covid-19 cases.
* A one way system will be in place though out each building and will be easy to follow.
* Students to arrive to school as close to 8.55am as possible to assist with social distancing
* If your child is in the high risk category and you have concerns about their return to school, we ask you to contact us.
* Parents/guardians must keep child at home if they display any Covid-19 Symptoms. <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/symptoms.html>.
* Homework – Students are asked to submit homework digitally by PDF using microsoft lens or equivalent.
* Students to bring their coats into classroom, as windows and doors will be kept open as often as possible to ensure that classrooms are well ventilated
* To ensure social distancing is maintained, a maximum of only 2 students are permitted in the toilets at one time

While school will be a different place, we hope to make it as safe and as calm an environment as possible.

**Wellbeing**

Focus on wellbeing as students and staff settle back to school. We are aware of the amount of changes for everyone as we re-open our school. We will work on the recommended five principles to support the wellbeing of all our students and staff. These are promoting:

• A sense of safety

• A sense of calm

• A sense of belonging and connectedness to school

• A sense of self-efficacy and school-community efficacy

• A sense of hope.

**If a staff member/pupil displays symptoms of COVID-19 while at school, the following procedure will be implemented:**

* The pupil will be accompanied to the isolation area. A distance of 2 meters will be maintained. If this is not possible, the person accompanying the child must wear a face covering.
* If a pupil has a suspected case, parents/guardians will be contacted immediately by telephone. To help us in this regard, parents /guardians will be asked to make sure that their contact details are always kept up to date.
* Staff members who are symptomatic should immediately inform the Principal/Deputy Principal and go to the isolation area.
* A face covering will be provided to the staff member/child who is symptomatic.
* The staff member or child who is symptomatic should avoid touching people, surfaces, and objects.
* If the staff member/child is well enough to go home, arrangements will be made for them to be transported home by a family member, as soon as possible.
* Anyone who is symptomatic is advised to inform their general practitioner by phone of their symptoms. Public transport of any kind should not be used to travel home.
* If the staff member/child is too unwell to go home or advice is required, the school will contact 999 or 112 and inform them that the sick person is a Covid-19 suspect.
* The isolation area and work areas will be thoroughly cleaned in line with the guidelines.
* The HSE will inform any staff/parents who have come into close contact with a diagnosed case via the contact tracing process. The HSE will contact all relevant persons where a diagnosis of COVID-19 is made. The instructions of the HSE should be followed and staff and pupil confidentiality is essential at all times.

**Reminder to anyone attending school who has travelled abroad:**

**Government policy, which is based on official public health advice, continues to advise against non-essential travel overseas for everyone.**

**It is a requirement for anyone coming into Ireland, from locations other than those with a rating of ‘normal precautions’ (“green”), to restrict their movements for 14 days, and this includes school staff, parents and children or other students coming from abroad to attend school in Ireland. Restricting your movements means staying indoors in one location and avoiding contact with other people and social situations as much as possible.**We appreciate your patience and look forward to welcoming students back to Corran College

Kind regards

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Martin Flynn (Principal)