



4th January 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Mr Peter Weir, NI Education Minister, announced on Thursday 31st December 2020 that schools should revise their plans for reopening after the Christmas break. This correspondence provides you with a brief outline of the arrangements we have put in place for the start of term. Full details of the Minister's statement can be found at: <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/news/weir-announces-changes-schools-reopening-arrangements>.

As per the Minister's announcement, the first day of the normal school term can be used by schools to prepare for remote learning and so Tuesday 5th January 2021, which was originally scheduled as the first day of term for students, will now be a Staff Planning Day. Lessons will be provided online for all students on Wednesday 6th, Thursday 7th and Friday 8th January 2021. Some online revision classes will be made available for S2 students in English and Maths from Tuesday 5th January. S2 pupils will receive direct communication in relation to this from their teachers.

From Monday 11th January 2021, students in Years 8 – 11 will be taught remotely until the end of January, while students in Years 12 – 14 will attend school for face-to-face teaching. These arrangements are subject to change at short notice. Any further amendments will be notified through Sims Parent App, the College website or Groupcall.

You are advised that your son should follow his normal school timetable when he is being taught remotely. A copy of the relevant protocols and procedures are available on the College website and will be circulated via the school app and Sims Parent App. This will help you understand what will otherwise be expected from your son during periods of remote learning.

In accordance with the guidance, the school will facilitate supervised learning for vulnerable children and the children of key workers from Wednesday 6th January 2021. Parents/ guardians of vulnerable children and children of key workers who require on-site supervised learning for their child or children should complete the application form which is available on the College website and forward this to Mrs Josephine McGrath jmgrath229@c2kni.net or via the College's info account info@stcolmans.org.uk. *(Further information on the definition of 'Key Worker' may be found within the Minister's statement via the link provided above).*

You are advised that when pupils are in school they must wear masks on the corridors and in classrooms and must also wear masks when travelling to or from school on school or public transport.

In the meantime I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a Happy New Year and to thank you for your ongoing support, understanding and co-operation in these most challenging of times.

I hope you and your family remains safe and well.

Mr Cormac McKinney

Principal