

1st April 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians

I hope that you and your family are remaining safe and well and are looking forward to a well-earned Easter break.

I would like to thank you for your encouragement throughout these very challenging times. The support that you gave to your son as well as to members of staff has been invaluable during this extended period of remote learning. I would like to commend our students for their level of engagement and their positive attitude. While there were better days and worse days for everyone; as a school community we can be very proud of the way in which the exceptional and very challenging demands of remote learning and teaching were met. It was really great that the Y12 – Y14 groups were back in class for the last two weeks of term. Having students back in VHC really lifted all our spirits.

**Minister Weir** wrote to schools on the 16th March 2021 indicating that all pupils will be returning to school on the 12-4-2021. He also stated that this was subject to review at the end of March. At this stage, there has been no further direction received from DE, so the assumption remains that all pupils will be back to school as normal after the Easter break.

**On return to school** all the protocols which were in place prior to Christmas will remain in operation. For your information the main regulations are as follows:-

- Student drop off and collection is at the pavilion
- There are separate entrances for junior and senior pupils
- Students go to their classrooms on arrival and wait in the classroom for their teachers
- Students only mix with students from their own year group
- There are separate areas for students at break and lunchtime and there are separate areas demarcated for each year group in the event of wet breaks
- Dinner times are staggered with each year group allocated separate areas for their lunches.
- Students must wear their year group badge which must be clearly visible on their blazer
- There must be no gathering in the toilets or on the corridors
- Students must have on their possession tissues, hand sanitisers and face coverings (x2 in event that one gets damaged)
- Regular hand washing remains a significant measure in the control of spread of COVID19. Students are encouraged to wash and sanitise their hands regularly
- Handwashing advice in particular relates to doing so on arrival to school, before and after eating and after sneezing or coughing
- Full school uniform should be worn apart from PE days when St. Colman's branded gear should be worn as available.

Over/

- There will be staggered leaving times from **3:20pm** each evening with students who walk home or who are collected by car being allowed to leave their classroom at this time.
- Face coverings must be worn at all times on the way to and from school, on buses and during school in corridors and classrooms
- Face coverings must not be shared with others.
- Students must ensure that coverings are worn correctly covering nose, mouth and chin
- Reusable face coverings should be washed after each day of use in 60 degrees/boiling water; disposable facemasks disposed safely in bins around the school or pocketed and taken home

Your co-operation in relation to ensuring your son adheres to these procedures is greatly appreciated.

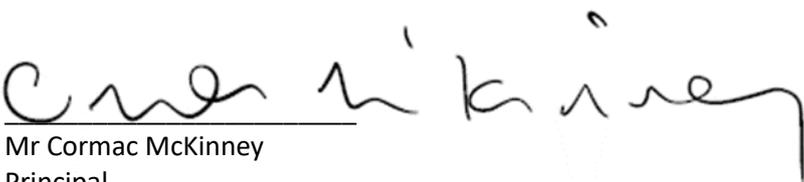
**Centre Determined Grades** concern Y12 – Y14 students. There will be a number of assessments for subjects following the Easter break. In the main these will be class tests lasting between 35 – 70 minutes. There will be some occasions when assessments are scheduled for larger groups of students and these will be in at least one of the larger halls. These assessments will be of a high level of control, ie they will be supervised and based either on past papers, CCEA assessment resources or using a combination of both. At all times, your son will be communicated with by his teacher or at a whole year group level in terms of what is expected from him. We will be providing further guidance at the beginning of next term. Y12 and Y14 pupils in particular must ensure they attend school fully until such times as they are instructed that there will be no further taught classes. Y13 pupils will be taught throughout term 3. All other pupils will also attend as normal.

**Lateral Flow Tests** have been made available for Y12 – Y14 students and members of staff. The testing days for St. Colman's College are Sunday and Wednesday evenings. Please follow the previously communicated reporting procedures.

We look forward to welcoming all students back to school on Monday 12-4-21. In the meantime, I hope that you and your family remain safe and well and that you get the opportunity to relax and rest over this Easter break.

Happy Easter

Yours faithfully



Mr Cormac McKinney  
Principal