



Larkin Community College
Coláiste Pobail Lorcáin

26th February 2021

6th Years Returning to School - Monday 1st March 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students

We hope that you and your families are all keeping safe and well.

We are looking forward to welcoming 6th Year students back to the school and we continue to follow all the guidelines that have been issued by the Department of Education in order to ensure that the building is ready for your return. The COVID-19 procedures that were in place when students last attended the school in person continue to be in operation. In order to plan for the phased reopening of the school LCC's Critical Incident Management Team, which comprises a wide range of staff as well as the Senior Management Team, has met and will continue to meet, to ensure that all the procedures and protocols that need to be in place for students and staff to safely return are in place. Staff from CDETB Head Office and their Maintenance department continue to support us in keeping the school a safe place for everyone.

As you know there are new variants of COVID-19 which appear to be more transmissible than previously and it is therefore vitally important that you follow all the procedures we have put in place to keep not only the school community safe but also our loved ones safe.

Keeping everyone safe and looking after their wellbeing, whilst re-engaging with teaching and learning, is our priority. We know that some of our returning 6th year students and their parents/guardians may be anxious or nervous about returning to school and this is why there will be a special emphasis on wellbeing when we return. In addition to the anxieties and worries caused by COVID-19, 6th years also have concerns about their Leaving Certificate – how the exams and accredited grades system will work and impact them. We will speak with students on Monday to inform them of the changes to the LC for 2021 and also go through a presentation about the COVID-19 health and safety procedures and protocols in place.

A Return to School Questionnaire must be completed for all students before they attend school again – this is an online form and the link will be texted to you separately. It must be completed by parents/guardian for each student or by the student if they are aged 18 or older and wish to do so. This form must be completed by Sunday 28th February in order to return to school on Monday.



Students should not return or attend school if:

- **They have any of the common COVID-19 symptoms which include (see [Symptoms of COVID-19 - HSE.ie](https://www.hse.ie/eng/conditions/coronavirus/symptoms)) :**
 - Fever - High temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or above
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties
 - Loss or change to your sense of smell or taste - this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal**If student displays any of these symptoms they should self-isolate at home and contact GP to arrange a COVID-19 test.**
- **they have been identified by the HSE as a close contact of a confirmed or suspect case of COVID-19;**
- **the live with someone who symptoms of COVID-19;**
- **they have travelled outside of Ireland and have returned from a country outside Ireland within the previous 14 days. Parents/Guardians should contact the school to inform us when the student returned to Ireland and when their quarantine period is complete. Students must follow the current government advice about travel [gov.ie - Travelling to Ireland during the COVID-19 pandemic \(www.gov.ie\)](https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/aac74c-guidance-on-safe-use-of-face-coverings/)**

If a student develops COVID-19 symptoms when in school they MUST bring this to the attention of the school immediately.

The HSE website provides up to date information on how what we all need to do in order to protect others: <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/protect-yourself-and-others.html>.

COVID-19 Protocols/Procedures in Place:

- A Return to School Form (online) must be completed prior to the return of students to school;
- All staff and students must wear a clean face mask/covering properly fitting which covers nose and chin. Further information regarding the use of face masks/coverings can be found at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/aac74c-guidance-on-safe-use-of-face-coverings/> ;
- Everyone entering the building must perform hand hygiene with a hand sanitiser and hands must be washed after any activities that are likely to soil hands, for example



playing outside or certain sporting activities as hand sanitiser does not work on dirty hands;

- Observe physical distancing at all times;
- Maximum of 2 students in student bathrooms;
- Practise good respiratory etiquette – cough/sneeze into elbow or tissue and perform hand hygiene afterwards;
- Follow instructions of school staff;
- Sharing of materials, equipment etc is not allowed;
- No hugs, handshakes or physical contact;
- Limited seating in atrium at lunchtime. 1m distance between students. Maximum time allowed at lunch without masks is 15 minutes;
- Students may not congregate on schools grounds after school;
- The school will continue to allow only essential visitors into the school during the day and only by prior arrangement with the principal. Any parent/guardian wishing to visit the school must make an appointment with the Principal in advance and follow school protocols;
- Code of Behaviour Policy was amended to include sanctions for breaching Covid-19 health and safety protocols;
- COVID-19 Policy has been ratified by the BOM;
- LCC COVID-19 School Response Plan has been updated;
- Any student who becomes unwell with any sickness during the school day will have to be collected from the school by a parent/guardian. Please ensure contact details are correct and up-to-date;
- Parents/Guardians and Students are advised to cooperate with any public health advice in the event of a case or outbreak of COVID-19 in the school;
- Follow all other protocols and procedures that are outlined in the Induction Presentation that will be done with students on Monday.

School Lunches

Lunch will be provided in school – BUT hot meals will not be served at present. A selection of sandwiches will be available to students. There is limited seating, as before, in the atrium for students to eat lunch. Students sit 1m apart and are allowed spend a maximum of 15 minutes eating their lunch with their masks off. After 15 minutes they must put on their face coverings or go outside where social distancing must be still be maintained.

6th Year Students – Monday 1st March 2021

- Arrive to the school for 10:30am for induction programme before you begin classes. Students will follow normal timetable and finish the usual time of 4pm.
- 6th Years will be based in downstairs classrooms for the phased reopening of schools (unless class uses specialist room upstairs – science lab or home economics room);



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- Should wear their full school uniform daily. It is recommended that uniforms be washed more frequently due to the essential respiratory etiquette of sneezing/coughing into your elbow.
- Bring the following each day:
 - 2 face masks (in a ziplock bag),
 - hand sanitiser
 - tissues with them daily

Information for parents/guardians and students

Remember to keep yourself informed by checking these websites for information:

- Please check HSE website regularly [Coronavirus - HSE.ie](https://www.hse.ie)
- [Home - Larkin Community College](#) and in particular the section about Reopening the School/COVID-19 which can be found by clicking here [Larkin Community College](#).
- For Information on wellbeing supports please check out: [Larkin Community College](#) (Wellbeing page) and [gov.ie - Wellbeing advice and resources during COVID-19 \(www.gov.ie\)](https://www.gov.ie)
- For information about the return to school: [gov.ie - Information for students, parents and families \(www.gov.ie\)](https://www.gov.ie) where you find some helpful videos and information booklets/posters.

Please contact the school if you have any queries or questions or need any extra supports. We will do our best to answer your questions and if we cannot provide the support you require we will do our very best to refer you to an organisation that can. You can email the school at larkinupdates@lcc.cdetb.ie.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your continued support. We are looking forward to welcoming the 6th year students back to the school and working with you in supporting your child's education journey and progression from school.

Kind regards,

Thomas Usher
Principal