

## Coláiste Pobail na Mainistreach

Bóthar na Mainistreach, An Pórt Mór, Port Láirge

Príomhoide: Michelle Jefford  
Leas-Phríomhoide: Colm Rice  
Leas-Phríomhoide: Helen Ní Chonchubhair  
Leas-Phríomhoide: Laura Fitzpatrick

## Abbey Community College

Abbey Road, Ferrybank, Waterford

Principal: Michelle Jefford  
Deputy Principal: Colm Rice  
Deputy Principal: Helen O'Connor  
Deputy Principal: Laura Fitzpatrick



T 051-832930

F 051-851110

admin@abbeycommunitycollege.com

www.abbeycommunitycollege.com

26<sup>th</sup> February, 2021

Dear Parents / Guardians,

We hope this letter finds you safe and well.

As we prepare for the return of our 6<sup>th</sup> year students on Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> March, this letter will remind you of current school practices and also update you on recent announcements by the Department of Education and Skills.

### In-School Education

As per the [Minister for Education's statement on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February](#), sixth year students will return to in-school provision on Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> March. Remote teaching and learning provision for students will cease once in-school provision commences. Students are returning to their normal full timetable and are expected to attend for the full school day. As always, if a student is absent or requires to leave school, the Year Head must be contacted.

### Canteen Provision

The school canteen will be open for sixth year students from Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> March.

### Headphones / Earphones

Students are required to bring their own personal headphones to school with them each day.

### Return to School Declaration Form and Induction – to be completed prior to school return

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in school, every parent/guardian (or student over 18 years) must complete and submit the following:

- **Return to School Declaration Form** which was sent to parents via text this week. This is to be completed within three days before the return to school.
- **Abbey Community College Covid-19 Induction** which has been posted in the 6<sup>th</sup> Year Year Group Team. This is to be watched and the form to be submitted by students before returning to school.

On review of these forms, school management may contact you and ask that the student does not return to school immediately and will discuss a suitable future date for return.

### **Covid-19**

The Department of Health and the HSE have reaffirmed that schools in themselves are low risk environments and that a gradual phased reopening can occur at this time. Public health has reviewed the measures put in place to ensure safe operation of schools and is satisfied that these infection prevention and control measures, if rigorously adhered to, will keep the school community safe during this period. They emphasise that all measures must be followed carefully by students, staff and parents.

It is critical that students stay at home if they are unwell or any member of the household is unwell with symptoms consistent with Covid-19. These symptoms include the following:

- High temperature
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties
- Loss of smell, of taste or distortion of taste

In this event, please do not attend school and contact your GP for medical advice. If the GP advises a Covid-19 test, please contact the school.

### **Masks, Sanitising and Social Distancing**

- Masks must be worn at all times indoors (please have a spare mask with you at all times)
- Masks must be worn at all times outdoors where 2 metre social distancing is not being maintained.
- Students are asked to go straight to their classroom for their first lesson on arrival to school.
- Students must follow the school's one-way system and walk on the right-hand side of the corridor.
- Students must use hand sanitiser / wash their hands as often as their can.
- Students must bring their own earphones to use with school devices.
- Students must sanitise their desk, chair and any equipment used, before and after use.

Regretfully, for the safety of everyone in our community, failure to follow the guidance regarding our school's safety protocols will result in students being sent home.

### **Leaving Certificate 2021**

A Guide to the State Examinations and Accredited Grades for 2021 was published yesterday evening. This can be viewed [here](#).

In summary, Leaving Certificate 2021 results will be awarded on the basis of the better of either

- Students' performance in Leaving Certificate examinations in any subject taken by them, including, where appropriate, their performance in the completion of additional components (coursework, orals, etc.)

or

- SEC Accredited Grades awarded to students in each subject based on schools' estimates of students' likely performance in the 2021 examination and a national standardisation process.

### **Registering for the Leaving Certificate 2021**

Students will be required to register on the SEC's Candidate Portal; confirm their subject and level entry details; opt for the examinations and/or to receive SEC Accredited Grades. The SEC's Candidate Portal is expected to open in the week of 8 March 2021 to allow students to make their choices. Students will have approximately one week in which to do this.

### **Adjustments to the Written Examinations**

In addition to the adjustment to the examinations previously communicated to schools, further adjustments will be made to the written papers. These further adjustments will aim to reduce the load on students, leaving intact the general overall structure of the written examination papers. In the majority of cases these adjustments will involve reducing the number of questions that students will be required to answer. The duration of the examinations will remain the same as set out in the published timetable, thus providing students with additional time to read the paper and answer the required number of questions. Further subject-by-subject guidance in relation to these adjustments will be issued by the SEC in the week of 22 March. The time available to complete each written examination will remain the same as is set out in the published timetable. Written examinations are scheduled to commence on 9 June 2021.

### **Oral Examinations, Coursework and Practical Examinations 2021**

Oral examinations in Irish and Modern Foreign Languages will take place in schools during the period from 26 March to 15 April. Schools have been instructed to hold the examinations at times outside of normal tuition time so that students' normal tuition is not interrupted to take the examination. Further details to follow.

Details of altered arrangements for subjects with additional coursework will be published at a later date, as will revised dates for the submission of work.

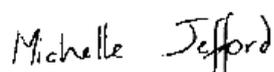
It has been confirmed that due to Covid-related restrictions, it will not be possible to hold practical skills tests in Construction Studies or Engineering. In these subjects, the proportion of marks normally allocated to these components will be reallocated to the project component.

### **Pre-Exams 2021**

The government has advised against the holding of pre-exams and over-assessment. In light of this direction, we are going to cancel our pre-examination in Abbey Community College. If you have already paid for the pre-examinations, our *Bursar* will be in contact with you to issue a full refund.

We look forward to welcoming our 6<sup>th</sup> year students back into the school building on Monday next.

Yours sincerely,



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Michelle Jefford

Principal