



Larkin Community College  
Coláiste Pobail Lorcáin

11<sup>th</sup> March 2021

### **5<sup>th</sup> Years Returning to School - Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

We hope that you and your families are all keeping safe and well. We have welcomed our 6<sup>th</sup> Year students back to the school and are looking forward to welcoming back our 5<sup>th</sup> year students on Monday the 15<sup>th</sup> of March.

As a school community our thoughts and love continue to be with the family and friends of Josh Dunne and all others who have suffered loss.

Keeping everyone safe and looking after their wellbeing, whilst re-engaging with teaching and learning continues to be our priority.

We know that some of our returning 5<sup>th</sup> year students and their parents/guardians may be anxious or nervous about returning to school and therefore there will be a continued commitment to wellbeing when we return. In addition to the anxieties and worries caused by COVID-19 5<sup>th</sup> years may also have concerns about their Leaving Certificate. Subject teachers will support and give guidance to students about their subjects.

For Information on wellbeing supports please check out: [Larkin Community College \(Wellbeing page\)](#) and [gov.ie - Wellbeing advice and resources during COVID-19 \(www.gov.ie\)](#)

On the first day back we will go through an updated presentation about the COVID-19 health and safety procedures and protocols that have been put in place in the school. 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 students return.

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.

**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 Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March in order to return to school on Monday. A new form must be completed each time a student's circumstances change in relation to COVID-19.

**Príomhoide:** Thomas Usher **Príomhoide Ionaid:** Deirdre Doyle **Príomhfheidhmeanach:** Carol Hanney BA, H Dip Ed, M Ed.

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**CDET B**



**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](#)) :**
  - 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 a 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;**
- **they live with someone who has 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 \(www.gov.ie\)](#)**

**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;
- Practice 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 upon return to school.

### **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 still be maintained.

### **5<sup>th</sup> Year Students – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021**

- Arrive to the school for the normal time of **8:30am**. Students will follow the normal timetable and finish at the usual time of 3.20pm.  
\*School will be closed on Wednesday of this week, the 17<sup>th</sup> of March for St Patrick's Day\*
- We will be remembering Josh Dunne with 5<sup>th</sup> year class groups during the day.



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- Your teachers will go through the COVID-19 induction programme with class groups.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Years will be based in classrooms 102, 200, 201 and 227 for the next two weeks and will attend classes in specialist rooms as required e.g. Art, Biology etc
- Students must 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.
- **Students must bring the following each day:**
  - 2 face masks (in a ziplock bag),
  - hand sanitiser
  - tissues

### 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 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.
- 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)

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](mailto: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 5<sup>th</sup> year students back to the school and working with you in supporting your child's education and wellbeing journey.

Kind regards,

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Thomas Usher  
Principal