



**Salesian College**  
**Celebrating 40 years in Celbridge**  
**“We care, develop, believe – together we achieve”**

**General School Letter**  
**6<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

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A Thuiste, a chara,

We are glad to welcome back all our students after the mid-term break and so far, so good we have no reports of any Covid-19 cases.

I firmly believe that one of the reasons we have done so well is because of the different systems and protocols we have in places.

We cannot let our guard slip so I must ask all parents and guardians to read this letter carefully and to discuss it with your son.

***Facemasks***

Students must have **2 clean masks every day.**

It was very obvious last Monday following the mid-term break that a large number of students simply took their masks out of their schoolbag where they had left them before the mid-term break and put them on. This is not hygienic and not acceptable.

I believe our students are old enough and mature enough to make sure they have two clean masks every day.

We are wearing masks to help prevent the spread of droplets and to keep the mouth and nose covered.

Putting on a dirty mask from the day before is not helping matters.

Nearly every shop in the country is selling masks of all types.

Please ensure, for everyone's sake, that your son has 2 clean masks everyday coming in to school.

### ***Hand Sanitizer***

We monitor the hand sanitizing stations around the school to make sure that they are full and ready to use.

We have noticed a drop in the levels of use expected. We know this from how often we have had to fill the dispensers.

Again, can I ask you to discuss with your son the importance of using the hand sanitizers, whether their own or the ones in the school and to regularly sanitize their hands.

### ***Lunchboxes***

All students must bring in their own lunchboxes in order to bring home their own rubbish.

We must keep the bins in the classrooms only for use of Covid-19 cleaning materials.

We have done really really well on this, but I do have to remind our students to ensure they have their own lunchboxes for rubbish every day.

### ***Heating & Extra layers***

Winter has arrived and temperatures have dropped.

As a school we must ensure all classrooms are well ventilate and this means having the windows open.

I would like to reassure all our school community that the heating is on every morning but due to the opening of doors and windows rooms are cooling down very quickly.

We appreciate that students may find this as uncomfortable as staff do.

Can we ask all students to wear an extra layer under their shirts – a thermal vest / under armour / light weight vest / top?

We will also allow students to wear a jacket in classrooms. Students must have their full school uniform on – including their school jumper. But no hoods, hats or scarves – we are not there yet!

### ***Department of Education & HSE School supports for Covid-19 cases***

As you all know over the mid-term break there was a lot of discussion about the health and safety concerns of students and teachers in schools and issues with hand sanitizers. The recall of products did not apply to us.

The DES in cooperation with the HSE & NPHET have issued new information on improved supportive measures to sustain the safe operation of schools where a positive case of Covid-19 is identified and connected to a school.

I share with you a summary of these DES & HSE new measures. The main points are as follows:

#### ***HSE live Covid-19 Principal school line.***

There is a new dedicated phone number specifically for school principals.

This phone number can be used where principals need assistance from Public Health in relation to a confirmed case of Covid-19 within the school community when they have not yet heard from Public Health.

#### ***Dedicated School Teams to support principals when there is a positive case.***

These teams, led by public health professionals, are being supplemented by inspectors assigned to the HSE from the Department and other staff reassigned from within the health services.

***Dedicated testing of close contacts from a school when there is a positive case.***

Public Health has in place prioritised testing for those close contacts of a confirmed case within a school community.

Covid-19 test appointments are issued as a priority for school based close contacts.

This ensures fast turnaround times for testing and enables swift onward further public health actions if required.

***Definition of a close contact in an educational setting.***

For clarity, HPSC, the agency with responsibility for this matter, has published the following definition of a close contact in an educational setting, as set out below.

**Any person who has had face to face contact within less than 1 metre with a confirmed case of COVID-19 for >15 minutes in a school day.**

**Any person who has been between 1 and 2 metres from a confirmed case of Covid-19 for >15 minutes in a school day with consideration of other mitigation measures e.g. face coverings, pods, ventilation, IPC measures or uncertain compliance with mitigation measures in place (assessed through clinical Public Health Risk Assessment (PHRA))**

Contacts are assessed from contact with a confirmed case of Covid-19 during their infectious period - 48 hours before the onset of symptoms if symptomatic, or 24 hours before the test for Covid-19 was taken in those who are asymptomatic.

As per current HPSC close contacts guidelines a clinical Public Health Risk Assessment (PHRA) will be undertaken for all educational settings where a confirmed case has attended whilst infectious.

This assessment will determine who are the close contacts.

***Traffic / Road Works outside the school.***

I ask all parents & guardians who drop and collect students from school to be mindful of the 700 students and 80 staff entering and leaving the school premises.

There are road works on the Maynooth Road at present and this is causing delays.

Please park safely and drive slowly and keep our students safe.

***40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Road Race Memories***

I sincerely thank all past pupils, parents and members of staff who sent in their Road Race memories. The videos were fantastic and great to see so many people have such fond memories of Salesian College and this unique event.

I thank Mr. Colin Cryan and Mr. Peter Beirne who collated and edited the videos.

The videos can still be seen on our Facebook page.

We are also still accepting contributions, please send your video to [40years@Salesianscelbridge.com](mailto:40years@Salesianscelbridge.com)

***School closed 16<sup>th</sup> November & 1<sup>st</sup> Year Vaccinations - Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November NUIM***

I remind all parents and guardians that the school will be closed for an in-service day on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November.

The HSE has asked us to notify all 1<sup>st</sup> year students and parents that the vaccinations for first year students will take place in Maynooth University on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

The HSE will be in contact with the parents/guardians directly with details on appointment times and information about the injection.

***House Exams November***

Over the next week all students will be advised of their house exam timetable.

We have made changes to the times of the exams to facilitate extra breaks for students and staff.

When planning the exams all subject departments will take in to account the work – new and revision work for last year – that has been covered.

Students will be advised of what areas to prepare and study for.

### ***Assistant Principals - Yearheads***

Please be advised of the names of the Year Heads for each year group.

1 <sup>st</sup> Year	Mr. Colin Cryan
2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	Ms. Antoinette O'Connor
3 <sup>rd</sup> Year	Mr. Alan Carolan
Transition Year	Ms. Ailish O'Toole
5th Year	Mr. David Maguire
6 <sup>th</sup> Year	Mr. Liam Lane

We ask parents to write in a note in the journal if you wish to speak with your son's Form Teacher.

### ***Travelling to and from school.***

We want to maintain our excellent record and reputation as a school of high standards and excellent students.

I remind all students and parents that our Code of Behaviour, which all students have signed clearly explains the expected standards of behaviour from students of Salesian College when in uniform and on their way to or from school.

We have and will investigate fully any report of unacceptable behaviour from members of our community here in Celbridge.

We have and will apply the most serious of sanctions to students who are found to have not behaved in a manner we expect and which all students have signed up to.

I ask you to please discuss this with your son and promote positive behaviour at all times.

### ***1<sup>st</sup> Year applications 2021***

We will send out our first round of letters of offers for first years 2021 from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November. This offer will be emailed so please keep an eye on your email account if you have made an application to the school.

### ***Gaeilge24***

Beidh Coláiste Sailéiseach ag glacadh páirte i Gaeilge24 i mbliana.

Is dúshlán í Gaeilge24 chun daltaí scoile a spreagadh Gaeilge amháin a labhairt ar feadh 24 uair an chloig: sa bhaile, ar scoil agus gach aon áit eile.

Tá an dúshlán á eagrú ag Conradh na Gaeilge agus á réachtáil acu le 6 bliana anuas. Beidh 15,000 dalta ó 150 scoil páirteach sa dúshlán fud fad na tíre i mbliana.

Beidh an dúshlán ar siúl Dé Máirt 10 Samhain 2020. Is deis iontach í chun do chuid cúpla focal a úsáid chomh maith dár ndóigh!

Gheobhaidh gach dalta atá ag glacadh páirte sa dúshlán pacáiste tacaíochta chun cuidiú leo.

Beidh t-léine, banda láimhe agus frásaí samplacha gur féidir leo a úsáid ar an lá sa phacáiste.

Bronnfar teastas orthu nuair atá an lá thart.

Tá súil againn go gcuireann an dúshlán le muinín na ndaltaí as a gcuid Ghaeilge labhartha féin.

### ***Transition Year News***

Work Experience dates are November 23- December 4<sup>th</sup>. Level 5 Covid Lockdown restrictions will affect our ability to secure work placements. If you have tried all avenues and your son still does not have a placement, do not panic! There will be a programme of meaningful and interesting work in place in the school for the 2 weeks for these students who do not have a work placement. We are living in strange times. Let us not add unnecessary stress to our lives.

### ***Journal & VS Ware Notes***

We remind all parents to check their son's journal and to sign it. All first years must have their journals signed every night for first year.

We remind parents to check your son's VS Ware account to see notes relating to punctuality, classroom behaviour, homework, and class participation. We know that this system has proved very successful in other schools so we will start using it immediately. We will give parents access rights to this once we have the system set up and ready to go.

### ***November – Month of Remembrance*** - [remembernovember@salesianscelbridge.com](mailto:remembernovember@salesianscelbridge.com)

Each year we invite students and members of our community to write the names of past loved ones in our Remembrance book in the school foyer.

It is important during this month to remember our friends and family who have died.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions this year, we invite all members of our school community to send an email to the following address with the names of the past loved ones:

**[remembernovember@salesianscelbridge.com](mailto:remembernovember@salesianscelbridge.com)**

I thank Ms. Julie Reilly in our Religious Education Department for organising this.

Our school Chaplain, Fr. Jesmond Apap of the Salesian Community, will collate these names and the Eucharist will be celebrated at the end of November for all those who have died.

I thank you all for taking the time to read this letter and ask you to discuss all the important points with your son and I appreciate your continued support for your son's safety and education.

Is mise, le meas,

Ms. B. Kearns,

**Príomhoide.**