



## Cookstown High School

Combined Grammar & Secondary School

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26 March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have been delighted to welcome back Year 12 – 14 pupils this week, having been away from the school building since Christmas. It has been an opportunity for pupils and staff to meet together and build upon the excellent work that they have been continuing to do during lock down. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> national lock down, pupil engagement with their academic work has been excellent, and I am especially grateful to all staff for their unstinting support and commitment throughout. Thank you for your overwhelmingly positive feedback regarding the use of School Cloud as a vehicle to hold Parent Consultations.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming all pupils back on Monday and Tuesday of the week commencing 12<sup>th</sup> April. The following year groups will have a phased return, along with Year 12, 13 and 14:

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April      Year 8 and Year 11, with Years 12-14

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April      Year 9 and Year 10, with all other year groups

I know that while there have been positive aspects to the last few weeks, young people and their parents are more than ready to get back to normal! I want to take this opportunity to highlight some important points in advance of all pupils returning during the week commencing Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Expectations**

You will be reassured to know that we will be paying particular attention to ensuring that pupils return to school with an understanding that the highest standards of conduct are expected. This is particularly important in the face of ongoing risk in relation to the transmission of coronavirus. It is essential that pupils aim to maintain at least 2m distance at all times where possible and that they continue to adhere to the restrictions on movement in school. They should take particular care with hand hygiene and adhere to our expectations in relation to face coverings.

A face covering can help to prevent your respiratory droplets from reaching others. No one likes wearing a face covering, but we wear them mainly to protect others. There is strong agreement amongst public health officials, health and safety experts and the Department for Education that wearing a face covering is an important part of continuing to tackle the coronavirus pandemic in our communities.

Face coverings are available in school should pupils forget theirs or need a replacement. Face coverings should be worn:

- By all staff, pupils and visitors in indoor areas outside of classrooms at all times, apart from when eating or drinking

- By all staff, pupils and visitors in classrooms unless a distance of at least 2m can be maintained
- On the bus on the way to and from school
- By staff when supervising pupils while on duty unless a distance of at least 2m can be maintained
- Some individuals are exempt from wearing face coverings and staff will be sensitive when ensuring compliance with this guidance.

Safe wearing of face coverings requires us to:

- Clean hands before and after the removal or putting on of a face covering
- Avoid touching the front of the face covering during use or when removing it
- Dispose of temporary face coverings in a 'black bag' waste bin (not a recycling bin)
- Store reusable face coverings in a sealable plastic bag before washing

The priority, of course, is for us to work together to ensure that all pupils are where they should be in terms of academic progress and their personal development. It is, therefore, very important that pupils now prepare for their return to school by ensuring that their uniform is fully compliant and they have all the equipment they need.

The High School pupils have been very impressive throughout the COVID crisis. Pupils have been mature and engaged throughout and conducted themselves sensibly and responsibly.

The summer term commences on Monday 12 April (Week B) and ends at 12:30pm on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June.

I trust that you have a restful Easter break and thank you for your on-going support and encouragement.

Yours sincerely



G J Evans  
Principal