



GLANMIRE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COLÁISTE POBAIL GHLEANN MAGHAIR

GLANMIRE, CO. CORK, T45 W965

Tel. 021 4822377 Fax. 021 4822690 Email: g mirecol@glanmirecc.ie

Roll no. 76064 F

14 August 2020

Dear Parents,

We continue to develop our school Covid-19 response plan to facilitate full reopening of the school in September. As previously indicated, the two key documents, provided by the Department of Education and Skills (DES), which are informing our decisions are:

COVID-19 Response Plan for the safe and sustainable reopening of Post Primary Schools

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/7acad-reopening-our-post-primary-schools/#covid-19-response-plan-for-safe-reopening-of-post-primary-schools>

Reopening Our Schools: The Roadmap for the Full Return to School

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/b264b-roadmap-for-the-full-return-to-school/>

School Uniform

A number of parents have contacted the school regarding the school uniform. Based on the documents provided by the DES, students will be expected to wear the full and proper school uniform when attending. The school does **not** have any plans currently to allow students to wear their own clothes when attending school in September.

PE Classes

The DES has highlighted the importance of PE classes continuing during this period in support of students' physical and mental wellbeing. We intend to make our PE Hall and other sports facilities available to students as much as is practicable. However, the equipment on the upper level of the PE Hall (exercise bikes, rowing machines, weights, punch bag etc.) will not be available for staff or students to use. Furthermore, dressing room facilities cannot be used. Consequently, on the day that a student has PE s/he will be allowed to wear their school tracksuit for the duration of the school day. We ask that parents and students co-operate with this change in our procedures. Please ensure students only wear the school tracksuit on the day they have PE.

Classrooms

Students will be assigned a place by their subject teacher in each and every subject they participate in. The seating plan drafted by the teacher must be strictly adhered to on a daily basis to facilitate contact tracing if required.

Morning Procedures

The school does **not** intend to stagger the start times in the morning. The school is open every morning from 8am onwards. Traditionally, our students begin arriving in school from this time. We will insist, however, that students head to their designated classroom immediately on arrival and take their place at the seat assigned to them in their classroom. Students will not be allowed to congregate in the social areas or corridors before registration starts at 8.50am.



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School Finishing

It is our intention to stagger school finishing times. While the procedure involved is still being finalised parents are asked to note that it will most likely involve students being dismissed from school by Year Group in 5 minute intervals starting from 3.30pm. Given our large numbers in the school it would be impossible to socially distance all students leaving the school without adversely impacting on the integrity of the school day. However, some minor staggering of finish times will help students to disperse in more manageable numbers.

Break Times

The school already has a staggered big lunch break for junior and senior cycle students. Junior Cycle students (1st Year to 3rd Year) have their main lunch break from 1.10pm to 1.50pm and Senior Cycle students (4th Year to 6th Year students) from 1.50pm to 2.30pm. This structure for the main lunch break will continue as normal this year. With regard to the morning break (11.35am to 11.50am) all year groups are involved. While the details of how breaks will be operated are still being finalised it is likely that students will be assigned to their classroom for the duration of the break time or they will be assigned a dedicated outdoor area (weather permitting) which they can use. Students will still be required to wear a face covering (visor and/or face mask).

School Canteen

We are currently in discussions with our school canteen service provider O Cruaiaoi's with regard to enabling students to order and pay for their lunch online. Students will then be able to collect their lunch at a designated area in the school and return to their classroom to eat. Students will be invited to bring their own lunch or buy online. Students will not be able to purchase items 'on the day' in the canteen. Students will not be allowed to congregate in the B-Block and C-Block social areas as they would have done traditionally. However, they will be allowed to use allocated outdoor areas during break times while continuing to wear a face covering (visor and/or face mask).

Book Rental Scheme

Thank you to the members of our Parents Council who helped yesterday with the barcoding of the new books delivered to the school as part of our Book Rental Scheme. While more work needs to be done for the digitalisation process to be completed we will be arranging before the return to school for students in 1st Year and 5th Year to come and collect their books. As mentioned in last week's update lockers throughout the school will be taken out of commission and students will not be expected to bring their books to school on a daily basis. Students will be required to bring their school journal, stationery etc. every school day.

Practical Classes

The school offers an extensive range of option subjects to our students. Many of these subjects have practical elements to the programme of work. Where possible we will be directing our teaching staff to demonstrate practical elements of the course. For example, a Science experiment might be pre-recorded by a teacher or demonstrated via a YouTube clip which is uploaded to our Google Classroom forum. Students can observe during class time and assignments can be set accordingly for students to complete. We will also be asking the relevant Subject Departments to develop protocols for safe practice in their class rooms. For example, students will be required to clean and disinfect the safety goggles that they have used during a practical lesson.



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Equipment

It is still our intention to provide every student in the school with a visor which must be worn at all times during the school day. The visor we have chosen is worn like a pair of glasses and should ensure as much comfort as possible for users throughout the day. It can also be worn over a pair of glasses and the ties for a face mask can be looped onto it ensuring the face mask does not have to be worn over the ears if this is more comfortable. It can also be taken apart and re-assembled for proper cleaning. We are also exploring the option of buying a reusable face mask for every student in the school and a 70mm mini bottle of hand sanitizer. In addition to the hand sanitizing stations in classrooms and around the school, this will ensure students have the ability to hand sanitize when required. We will also keep a stock of visors, face mask and hand sanitizers in the office which students can purchase if they lose or forget the equipment we have provided.

Technology to Support Learning

Glanmire Community College (GCC) is a registered user of G-Suite for Education. G-Suite is operated by Google and provides a wide range of Applications to support learning, teaching, assessment, personal organisation and information management. Attached is a brief guide to the various features of G-Suite for Education. You may find the guide useful to help you support your child's learning by familiarising yourself with some of the features available.

A reminder again to all of us in our school community that no interpersonal activity is without risk of transmission of infection at any time. Therefore, the key challenge for the school is to balance the need for a practical and sensible level of caution with the need to provide a supportive environment for teaching and learning. It is important to note, however, that the advice to schools from the DES is evolving continually and the school will try and respond to this updated information as it emerges. A further update will be provided, as planned, next Friday 21 August.

Yours Sincerely,
GCC Senior Management