



# GLANMIRE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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## GCC Update for Parents Friday 7 August 2020

Dear Parents,

We hope you and your families continue to stay safe. As we continue to work through our Covid-19 response plan, we want to provide you with another update on our progress to re-open GCC in September, as planned.

### School Building

It is important to note that as well preparing ourselves for the challenges of Covid-19, the school is continuing to implement the shared outcomes from our Strategic Planning process. The purpose of our strategic plan is to continue to provide the best possible learning environment, learning experiences and learning outcomes for all. To this end we are delighted to inform you that the following upgrades to the school campus have been completed over the Summer, or are in the process of being finished. We are committed to ensure these will be in place by the beginning of the school year:

- Introduction of a new short course for incoming first year students called 'My Brain & Me – the Science of Learning'. This, school-designed, course is part of our Wellbeing programme and aims to support our students to become more effective, self-directed learners.
- Planning application to Cork County Council to install an All-Weather pitch development at the back of the school
- Installation of high-speed WIFI in our A Block, B Block and C Block buildings and our PE Hall
- Complete refurbishment of our Music Room, B2, to include painting, new flooring, new classroom furniture and 13 new computers
- Complete refurbishment of our Demonstration Room B47 with painting, new flooring and new tiered seating installed
- Complete refurbishment of our Computer Room B45 with painting, new flooring and 33 new computers
- Complete refurbishment of our Design and Communications Graphics (DCG) Room B56 with painting, new flooring, new cabinets and upgrading the existing 25 computers with Solid State Drives
- Installation of 4 touch free electronic water dispensers for refillable water bottles
- Purchase and Implement an electronic management system for our Book Rental Scheme
- Upgrading of our Computer Suite C18 with the installation of Solid State Drives into the 33 existing computers
- Upgrading of our DCG Room C19 with the installation of Solid State Drives into the 24 existing computers
- Upgrading of all computers in the school to Microsoft Windows 10 Operating System
- Replacement of Lighting in our B-Block Social Area with LED impact-resistant lighting
- Painting of our Engineering Rooms B3 & B4
- C-Block Wall Graphic to commemorate the school's link with the International Space Station in October 2017
- Installation of large screen interactive TV monitors in our Board Room/Meeting Room
- Development of a welcome waiting area in the school foyer outside the main office in the B-Block
- Installation of a large screen smart TV in the main school foyer

- External Directory signage on the school grounds
- Upgrading of classroom projectors in all classrooms to support interaction with mobile devices.

We look forward to these state of the art facilities, equipment and programmes being available to our staff and students in the months and years ahead. We are confident that our engaging programmes of learning for students, combined with our positive learning environment, will result in enhanced learning outcomes for our students. It is important to note that none of these developments would be possible without the support of parents provided through the student activity contribution for which we are extremely grateful.

### **School Reopening**

We continue to develop our school Covid-19 response plan to facilitate full reopening of the school in September. It is important that all of us in our school community are reminded 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. This task is made more complicated by the evolving nature of advice being provided to schools. Notwithstanding the ever changing landscape and advice, elements of our school reopening plan will most likely include the following:

- All staff and students to wear a visor at all times throughout the school day with face masks optional.
- Enhanced signage and awareness material displayed throughout the school
- Installation of sanitising stations throughout the school
- Student lockers to be taken out of circulation
- Students will not be required to bring text books to school on a daily basis
- All notes will be provided to students through our online platform Google Classroom
- Online text books to be used by teachers in classes, when required
- All homework/coursework to be submitted/corrected online
- No photocopying or distributing of hard copy notes to students
- All staff, students and parents actively encouraged to download and use the HSE Covid-19 Tracking App
- Some staggering of the morning break time
- Staggering of the school finishing times
- Classroom layouts to be adjusted to maximise social distancing

It is important to note that none of the above steps are finalised and that our Covid-19 plan must be signed by the Chairperson of our Board of Management Ms. Linda Skillington. We are also liaising with the Chairperson of our Parents Council Ms. Janet Gahan. The school has already purchased hand sanitizer dispensers which will be installed in each and every classroom in the school. We are in the process of sourcing an order for 1200 visors and acquiring the necessary signage and displays as recommended in the documents provided by the DES. We will endeavour to have our plan finalised by Friday 21 August at the latest. As mentioned previously we will provide you with a further update next Friday 14 August.

Yours Sincerely,  
GCC Senior Management Team