



OUR
LADY'S
SCHOOL
TERENURE



26th February 2021

Dear 6th Year Parents/Guardians,

We are delighted that the government has announced the reopening of schools. We look forward to welcoming our 6th Years back this Monday, March 1st. All other year groups will return to school on a phased basis. Before returning, each parent will have to complete the **Return to Educational Facility Declaration Form** which has been posted on the APP ahead of your daughter's return. The submission of this form is compulsory before any student can attend school. It is in the Consent tab of your app menu.

Please note that the updated OLS Covid Response Plan with updates based on DES guidelines has been posted on the website.

The indicative return to school dates are subject to review and confirmation will follow closer to the time:

6th Year – 1st March
5th Year – 15th March
1st– 4th Year 12th April

As we will only have 6th Years in the school building from Monday we have moved their classrooms to give them as much space as possible and have also created lunch and break pods of no more than 5 people. As more groups return to school this will have to be reviewed.

The following procedures are again in place:

1. Students will wear their full OLS school uniform or their OLS full PE school uniform (no black leggings or alternative hoodies allowed).
2. Students are expected to adhere to good respiratory etiquette and wear masks over the nose and mouth.
3. Entrance to the building will be as per schedule in December.
4. Students will have the same access to school lockers as in December. Access will be limited in line with Covid protocols so good organisation will be key.
5. All classrooms have been set out to allow for **separation of desks** and chairs so that all students are separated by a minimum of 1m, in accordance with the guidelines.

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Principal:
Marguerite Gorby

Deputy Principals:
Stephen Rhatigan, Aoife Ronan

6. **Extra cleaning** has been put in place with support staff now present all day and increased hours after school. In addition, we are all responsible for cleaning our own work spaces.
7. Students should come to school with their own additional **supply of face masks and are encouraged to bring their own hand-sanitiser**. There is hand sanitiser in all classrooms, surface spray and blue roll for the cleaning of touch surfaces.
8. Students are required to wear **masks at all times** indoors.
9. **Corridors** The school will continue to have a one-way system. It is important that this is observed. There'll be 'road markings' on the corridor to remind us. The Department of Education COVID-19 Response plan says "Briefly passing someone in a hall is very unlikely to contribute significantly to the spread of infection if people do not have physical contact and avoid informal group discussions." Students should not congregate on corridors, but should move promptly to their destination.
10. Students will be told which pods they are in and they should stay in these pods unless requested to change
11. We expect many more students to walk and cycle – a pattern that has grown in recent months. For safety reasons, there will be **no student/parent vehicle access to the mainschool car park**. Please use the set down area only in the outer car park.

For Students:

1. When you move classrooms you will sit in the pre arranged class pod
2. When you move classrooms, you'll start in the new room or lab with a quick wipe down of the desk and chair, and the same at the end of class.
3. We will all avoid sharing personal items. Bring your own belongings - copies, pens, pencils, rulers, erasers, geometry sets etc.

Handwashing

All toilets have hot water installed. Gel dispensers are located on corridors. In addition, bring the following to school each day as a personal hygiene kit:

- Small bottle of hand sanitiser
- Tissues
- Clean, sealable bag for used masks
- Wipes for your desk

You should perform hand hygiene:

- On arrival at school
- Before eating or drinking
- After using the toilet
- After playing outdoors
- When your hands are physically dirty
- When you cough or sneeze
- When entering or exiting a vehicle

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If feeling unwell:

Know the symptoms of Covid (High temperature, cough, shortness of breath or breathing difficulties, loss of smell, of taste or if things taste odd). If you feel unwell during the day, **tell your teacher**. You'll wait in a room and a parent will be called to collect you, and from then on you'll be following medical guidelines on what happens next and when you are back to school.

Symptoms of COVID-19

In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 it is important to know and recognise the symptoms.

They are:

- High temperature
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties
- Loss of smell, of taste or distortion of taste

If you or any member of the household has any of these symptoms, the student in the house should not come to school.

Good Respiratory Etiquette

Make sure you, and the people around you, follow good respiratory hygiene. This means covering your mouth and nose with a tissue or your bent elbow when you cough or sneeze.

Then dispose of the used tissue immediately and safely into a nearby bin. By following good respiratory hygiene, you protect the people around you from viruses such as cold, flu and COVID-19.

Visitors

- Visitors to school during the day should be minimised as much as possible and by prior appointment and will be received at a specific contact point.
- Essential visitors should perform proper hygiene on arrival at school and wear a mask.
- Visitors should maintain 2 metres physical distancing from students and staff while in school.
- Visitors should sign a contact tracing log which each school is required to keep.

6th Year

We have received the following information which will be further clarified and refined in due course.

Orals: March 26th - April 15th outside school time

a. Conducted by teachers

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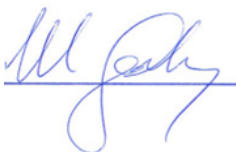
- b. Orals marked by State Exams Commission
- c. Orals conducted face to face (in accordance with health advice)

Indicative dates:

KEY DATES	EXAM COMPONENT	
9 th March 2021	Student Portal Opens	Decision of Students
29 th March 2021	Oral Exams	School Administered
14 th May 2021	Collection of Evidence – Accredited Grades	Coursework Completed
28 th May 2021	School Term Ends for Students	One Week Early
4 th June 2021	Accredited Grades Process Completed	Accredited Grades Submitted by Schools
9 th June 2021	Leaving Certificate Written Exams Commence	Normal LC Timetable 9 th June – 29 th June 2021
Mid-August 2021	Leaving Certificate Exam Results Issued	Normal Timetable for CAO offers etc

We look forward to seeing your daughter and I wish her the very best in the term ahead. No doubt that there will be more changes ahead of us and I will notify you when new information becomes available.

Yours sincerely



Principal