



Le Chéile Secondary School
Hollystown Road
Tyrrelstown
Dublin 15



Le Chéile Secondary School

www.lecheilesecondaryschool.ie
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29th November 2020

Dear Parent /Guardian,

As we approach December and the final few weeks of our first term of the 2020/21 school year we would like to update you on some amendments we have made to our policies and practices. These changes have been made as a result of feedback from students, parents and teachers.

Christmas Assessments

This school year has been a difficult one for all of our school community and we are mindful that many of our students have found this 'new normal' challenging. In light of this we have decided to extend the Christmas Assessment schedule to allow for a three week assessment window. Whilst the assessments will be formal end of term exams, they will take place within class time rather than in the more formal school hall environment. This is in line with our Covid 19 social distancing protocols. Reports will be issued following the Christmas holiday.

School Jackets indoors

As advised in the DES Roadmap for the Safe Return to School, ventilation is very important in stopping the spread of Covid -19. Our teachers continue to work hard to ensure that the school community remains safe and this includes leaving classroom windows and doors open. As the weather has become more wintery we have agreed that students will be allowed to wear their **school jacket** in class when necessary. The school jacket is part of the school uniform and whilst the majority of our students wear their correct jacket to school there is a small minority who do not. Students will **not be allowed** to wear non uniform jackets in class. If your child does not have a school jacket as yet, we would ask that you contact the school. Students can also wear an additional layer under their school shirt for warmth but this should not be visible.

Toilet breaks

As part of our Covid Response Plan and to maximise social distancing in the bathrooms our practice around toilet breaks was amended this year. The bathrooms were closed during break and lunchtimes and students were allowed to leave class to use the bathrooms as needed. Unfortunately some of our students used this as an opportunity to leave class more often than needed, meet up with friends from other classes, remain out of class for an extended period and most disappointingly cause damage to the bathrooms. In spite of a number of reminders in assemblies about being their 'best self' and care of our beautiful school environment this has continued.

We have therefore decided to revert back to our normal school policy. The bathrooms will be open at break and lunchtimes for students to use. We are grateful to our teachers who have volunteered their lunch and break times to enable additional supervision and ensure social distancing protocols are maintained. Prior to this year our policy has always been that students only leave class during lesson time when absolutely necessary, however as with all school policies and practices we take a pastoral approach in implementing them and understand that there will always be exceptional cases. Whilst the main student bathrooms will be closed during class time there are a number of single cubicle toilets on each corridor which will be open to any student who genuinely needs a toilet break during class time.

School Uniform

We would like to remind parents that **school PE uniform** should only be worn to school on the days that students have PE and no variations of the PE uniform are allowed. We would ask for parent support in ensuring that your son/daughter comes to school in correct school uniform each day. The school uniform list is on the school website, in the school journal and has been highlighted in a number of letters home this term. School uniform can be purchased online from the Schoolwear House.

Covid 19 Response Plan

As we approach the final weeks of term we ask parents to re-visit our Covid Response Plan and re-familiarise themselves with our safety protocols. We are unable to accept forgotten lunches, books, iPads etc at the office window so please ensure that your child has packed their bag each evening with all that they need for the following day. We would also ask that you ensure they have a clean mask each morning.

The school has had an inspection visit to evaluate our Covid protocols. We are pleased to have received a very positive report highlighting full compliance across all the standards.


It is testament to the hard work of the whole school community that we have kept Le Chéile Covid free at a time when numbers of Covid cases were rising rapidly in the area of Dublin 15. We are grateful to our teachers, students and parents for their support in implementing our safety measures so effectively.

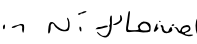
We are delighted that even in the most difficult circumstances we have continued to flourish as a school whilst maintaining our high standards. Our Christmas Newsletter which is now in production will highlight the many opportunities which have remained open to students even in these challenging times.

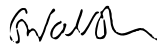
As we move into the Christmas season we look forward to a lovely festive buzz around the school and will keep you updated on our Christmas events. Finally can I remind parents that school will be **closed on Monday 7th December as a discretionary day.**

Thank you for your continued support.

With every good wish,


Leona Harrington
Principal


Róisín Ní Dhonncha
Deputy Principal


Emer Walsh
Deputy Principal