



**Creagh
College**
Coláiste na Craobhai Guaire

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Learning for life



16/10/2020

Staff/Parent/Student Briefing Re: contingency measures week of Oct 19th

To all the members of our school community,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of contingency plans we have made for next week (commencing Mon Oct 19th).

Our immediate difficulty relates to the availability of teaching staff. There has long been, and continues to be a significant shortage of substitute teachers, and as staff are diligently following the public health guidelines and not coming to work in circumstances where they are advised to isolate or restrict movements (very often as a purely precautionary measure) we have increasingly experienced problems in covering all of our classes.

We are aware of further difficulties in this regard that are anticipated next week; therefore we have devised a contingency plan for next week that will allow us to safely operate the school with appropriate supervision in place for all students attending. Regrettably, this plan will involve alternately requiring year groups to stay at home to free up teachers to cover classes. Our current circumstances are volatile and unpredictable; as the next week progresses our difficulties may ease, in which case we will revisit this plan. Please monitor your work email (for staff) and our text messaging/social media channels/website (for students and parents) for updates. We will confirm or amend the measures in place the next school day with a social media post and a text message to parents by 8pm each evening.

Each year group will stay at home for one day (except TYs who will stay at home for two days). 6th years were due to have "Wellness Wednesday" activities next Wednesday, which are scheduled to include a remotely delivered talk from an external speaker. If we do in fact have to leave our 6th years at home on Wednesday this talk will still go ahead and we expect our 6th years to log into it remotely.

Parents and students should be aware that teachers attending for work will be engaged in covering other classes so it will not be possible for remote learning to be provided for the year groups who are left at home on particular days.

I would like to again express my gratitude to our entire school community for their commitment to a successful re-opening of the school. I regret that we are in a position such as this; I hope you will understand that it is beyond our control and we would not make these plans if we didn't feel they were needed in order to operate our school. We also feel it will be helpful for our school community to have advance notice of these measures.

Our staff and students have conducted themselves magnificently since we re-opened. Many of the difficulties we anticipated in August have not come to pass because of how brilliant everyone has been in complying with the restrictions and regulations that have made school challenging for all.

On behalf of the Board of Management I would like to express my deepest gratitude to everyone for playing their part in keeping us all safe and well.

You will all be aware of worrying trends with regard to Covid-19 cases in the North Wexford area over the last two weeks. I do want to reiterate, that our infection prevention and control measures have been robust; we have no evidence of Covid-19 transmission in our school and we have only had one Public Health Risk Assessment thus far in which public health officials were extremely impressed with our level of precautions. The contingency measures we have planned for next week are in response to a shortage of substitute teaching staff.

I urge all of you to continue to fully observe and comply with all of the current protocols, regulations and restrictions. Each small thing each one of us does to minimise the risk of the virus spreading will collectively keep all of us safe and well.

Best wishes,

Sincerely,

Paul Glynn, Principal

CONTINGENCY MEASURES (to be confirmed each evening before 8pm via text message and social media channels)

Mon October 19 th :	2 nd year students should stay at home
Tues October 20 th :	1 st year students should stay at home
Wed October 21 st :	6 th year students should stay at home
Thurs October 22 nd :	5 th years and TYs should stay at home.
Fri October 23 rd :	TYs and 3 rd years should stay at home