



Creagh
College

Coláiste na Craobhai Guaire

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Learning for life

05/06/2022

Staff/Parent/Student Briefing Re: contingency measures, January 2022

Main points:

- **2nd years should stay at home on Thursday Jan 6th (all other year groups to attend)**
- **1st years should stay at home on Friday Jan 7th (all other year groups to attend)**
- **School canteen will not be open on Thursday Jan 6th or Friday Jan 7th. Canteen will reopen on Monday Jan 10th. (Students to bring a packed lunch)**
- **A further contingency plan will issue on Fri Jan 7th.**

To all the members of our school community,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of contingency plans we have made and which will be further developed over the coming days.

When I wrote to you in November 2021 I outlined some of the difficulties we have experienced and set out contingency arrangements for three weeks in Nov/Dec when we were particularly worried about having sufficient teachers in situ to safely supervise all of our classes. Fortunately, we did not need to utilise those contingency plans during that period.

However, it is already apparent that when the school reopens on schedule on Jan 6th, we will have significant staff shortages and will have to leave year groups at home. Therefore we have decided to leave our second year students at home on Thursday Jan 6th and our first year students should remain at home on Friday Jan 7th. Over the course of the next few days we will liaise with the DES around how we will work through the next few weeks and we expect to issue a contingency plan schedule for next week on Friday afternoon (Jan 7th).

Our staff will continue to diligently follow the public health guidelines by not coming to work in circumstances where they are advised to isolate or restrict movements. This will inevitably put us under significant pressure regarding supervision and availability of teachers for the coming weeks.

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. Wherever possible, staff will make work available to year groups/classes not attending school on MSTeams.

I would like to again express my gratitude to our entire school community for their commitment to keeping the school open in as safe a manner as possible. 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 implement these measures if we didn't feel they were needed to safely operate our school.

I urge all of you to continue to fully observe and comply with all 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. **Most importantly, it is vital that students/staff who have symptoms, who are close contacts, or who themselves have positive test results (either antigen or PCR) must not attend school.**

Sincerely,

Paul Glynn, Principal