



Bulletin 9 for Parents/Guardians

22 – October - 2020

Dear Parents / Guardians

As we approach October Mid-term, I want to take this opportunity to thank the entire school community for all their efforts so far this year. Together, we have all managed to re-open our school, keep it open, and keep it running smoothly. Huge strides have been made in terms of blended learning, through our usage of Microsoft TEAMS. We have successfully completed one Blended Learning Day with our 5th years and will do the same with our 6th years tomorrow. Feedback on these days from students and teachers is really helping us continuing to prepare in the event of local/partial lockdowns.

With the country moving to Level 5 restrictions, we are all aware that difficult times are ahead. Hopefully, our school community will not be significantly affected in the coming weeks and months. However, it is hard to envisage that we will not have at least some confirmed cases of Covid-19 in our school community. With that in mind, I would like to detail how the guidelines from the DES work on the ground.

The guidelines state that ***'The response to confirmed cases or outbreaks of Covid-19 in the community or in a school is the responsibility of and will be led and managed by Public Health HSE. All decisions as to appropriate actions following a confirmed case or outbreak will be made by their teams in the context of a full Public Health Risk Assessment procedure according to the principles set out in the document in the link above. Any actions to be taken by the school will be communicated directly by Public Health HSE. School management will be informed as and when such actions such as exclusion of children or staff; partial or full closure, are deemed necessary on public health grounds. If the school is not so informed, it has not been deemed necessary by Public Health.'***

This means that Senior Management in schools can not take any action until so informed by Public Health HSE. Even if a parent has informed Senior Management that their child has tested positive, Senior Management can not take any action until instructed to do so by Public Health HSE. This places Senior Management in schools in an extremely difficult position, particularly if there is a delay between being informed by a parent and being contacted by the HSE.

Please understand that I will not discuss individual cases. If we are contacted by Public Health HSE in relation to a confirmed case, a public health risk assessment will be undertaken and the parents of children deemed to be close contacts of the confirmed case will be contacted and advised accordingly. An official letter from Public Health HSE will be issued, and we will share this letter with the entire school community in a timely manner, via our website and text messaging platform.

Further information on Covid-19 is available at: www.hpsc.ie and www.gov.ie

VSWARE APP:

Please download the new **VSWARE Parent App** from the relevant app store. It is free to download and will allow you to reset passwords, check behaviour and timetables. Thank you!



Online Bullying:

Junior Students have all completed online/cyber bullying modules this week. Please visit www.webwise.ie and look at the Parent section. Please continue to be proactive in keeping your child safe online. Check out the 'Family Link' app that will help you control devices in your house.

Please be mindful about when you contact school staff. Please only contact during normal working hours. Thank you.

A reflection for Midterm!

NOT EVERYTHING IS CANCELLED

Sunshine is not cancelled.

Spring is not cancelled.

Love is not cancelled.

Relationships are not cancelled.

Reading is not cancelled.

Naps are not cancelled.

Devotion is not cancelled.

Music is not cancelled.

Dancing is not cancelled.

Imagination is not cancelled.

Kindness is not cancelled.

Conversations are not cancelled.

Hope is not cancelled.

Wishing you all a restful midterm,

Stay safe & Best wishes,

Rachel O' Connor,

Principal.