

Subject line: School holidays extended to Jan 11th, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians

I hope that this email finds you all well and that you have enjoyed the opportunity for some downtime during the Christmas holidays so far. As most of you will undoubtedly have heard by now, it has been announced by the government that Ireland returns to Level 5 restrictions for one month, and that the school holidays are to be extended to reopen instead on Monday January 11th, 2020.

By adhering to the necessary guidelines of; limiting contacts, social distancing, and hand and respiratory hygiene, we can all play our part in preventing the spread of the virus further. This will not only reduce the impact on our most vulnerable communities and healthcare systems but also give us 10 days from now to prepare for a safe and healthy reopening of schools on January 11th, which has proven to be vital for our students' positive mental health and wellbeing.

The government has emphasised their commitment to reopening schools on January 11th and said the analysis of data published on schools has been very reassuring, permitting them to remain open through all the other fluctuating level restrictions in place since August, including a Level 5.

[Taoiseach Micheál Martin Press Statement in full 30/12/20](#)

Excerpt from Taoiseach's Press Statement

'All public health analysis is showing that schools are safe, and schools will reopen, but slightly delayed to 11th January. By extending the break by 3 days the new restrictions I am announcing this evening will be in place for more than 10 days when schools open. Families will have had an opportunity to ensure that their contacts are minimised before children return to school.'

[Minister for Education Norma Foley Press Statement in full 30/12/20](#)

Excerpt from Minister for Education's Press Statement 30/12/20

"The Christmas school break will be extended for three additional days to 11 January. This will allow every member of the school community to follow public health advice closely and minimise their contacts before children return to school.'

Covid-19 Response Plan

Our support staff will be in school next week, to once again review all of our [Covid-19 health and safety protocols and processes](#). We have been pleased with the efficacy of our protocols this past term but will consider any changes that may be necessary in light of the new Level 5 restrictions.

Academics

For now, we are being asked to extend the school holiday by just 2 days. Our provision will respond as appropriate, if we receive any change to this guidance, as outlined in my Christmas Newsletter.

Well-Being Pathway

As extended time away from school, especially over the Christmas holidays, can be challenging for some families and students, we remind you that our [Well Being](#)

[Pathway](#) remains in place. Please do encourage your child to seek support if they are struggling with any issues.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Our Extra-Curricular Schedule for the new term will be revised to reflect Level 5 restrictions, as before, so an updated timetable will be sent out to you at the beginning of term.

We will be in contact again next week with any necessary updates, and look forward to welcoming all our staff and students back, after the slightly longer break, on January 11th. A return to school questionnaire will be sent, in advance of that.

Yours,

Mark Ronan
Headmaster / Principal