



THE
KING'S
HOSPITAL
SCHOOL

Return to School Boarding Information 18-8-21

Dear Parent and Guardian

I hope you and the students have enjoyed the summer break. We are really looking forward to seeing the students again and to welcome our new Form 1 and mid-stream students.

The Headmaster has already written to you with the news that the Department of Education has asked that all schools follow the same Covid-19 protocols and mitigations that were in place for the summer term. An updated government Covid-19 school response plan is due out today but as a boarding school, we have additional protocols and mitigations required of us that are vital to keep our students and staff safe and able to remain in school.

We were relieved that there were no outbreaks or mandated school closures due to a Covid-19 infection during the past school year, so we will continue to do what we know works.

The vaccination programme is ongoing, from 12 years and up, and is another weapon in the fight against Covid-19 but runs the risk of creating a false sense of security. Mask-wearing, social distancing and frequent handwashing/sanitising remain recommended public health measures for all and are mandated for all schools, by the DES.

The Delta Variant, which was not as prevalent in the Summer Term, is highly transmissible and can be transmitted by, and infect vaccinated people as well. Therefore, we must be even more vigilant in the coming months, to prevent a student or staff member becoming ill or an outbreak of infections necessitating students being sent home to self-isolate.

Covid-19 protocols and mitigations from the summer term will remain in place for the Autumn term until we receive further updates from the Department of Education and/or Department of Health, with reviews on a monthly basis.

Students are asked to watch our [Covid-19 return to school video](#) linked here to refresh their memories.

A REMINDER OF RETURN DATE FOR BOARDERS

- New International Students Tuesday Aug 24th

Returning and new mid-stream students check into their rooms after induction (11am-1pm) at 1pm on the following days:

- Form 1 & 6 Wednesday Aug 25th
- Form 4 & 5 Thursday Aug 26th
- Forms 2 & 3 Friday Aug 27th

Boarding siblings may return together on whichever date is earliest. A full day of school and ECA's takes place the day after induction.

TESTING REQUIREMENTS FOR RETURN TO SCHOOL

All students should present to school with a negative PCR test taken within 48 hours of check-in. It is unlikely that students who have recently received an mRNA vaccine, such as Pfizer or Moderna, will show a false positive result due to the vaccine.

Covid-19 tests are now provided free by the HSE at many walk-in clinics around the country. Please check the [HSE website](#) for locations and opening times.

ROOM ALLOCATION

Students will be grouped as 5 or 7-day boarders, and 7-day boarders are asked not to return home, up to the long weekend at the end of September, at which point we will review the Covid-protocols, in line with public health guidelines.

All students are asked to comply fully with Covid-safety measures at home and at school, in the ongoing quest to avoid the spread of infection, regardless of vaccination status, as everybody remains at risk.

HOW WE'RE CONTINUING TO KEEP THE SCHOOL SAFE FOR OUR BOARDING COMMUNITY

- Students to wear masks when not in their dorm rooms (up to 3 reusable masks will be made available at the start of the term on request)
- Wall mounted Hand sanitisers in each dorm room
- Assigned toilets & sinks for students
- Student spray ionised filtered water on all bathroom surfaces after use.
- Pedal bins in all rooms and throughout the school.
- Advanced cleaning regime by cleaning staff.
- One-way system in dormitory corridors & throughout school campus.
- Kitchenette & TV room access is limited to room pods.
- Assigned seating in Dining Hall for all meals.
- Staggered lunch and break times.
- Increased lunch and break supervision.
- Whole staff Covid-19 training.
- Student inductions for Covid-19 training before entering dorms/school.
- No parents allowed in school buildings without prior appointment to visit staff member.
- Packages can be dropped off at reception only.
- Increased space made available in classrooms to allow for 1M distance.
- Students will not be able to visit each other's dorm rooms.
- Leave out will have to be evaluated in line with Public Health Guidance at the time.

I appreciate your support to keep the school safe and open, and would ask that you discuss the importance of maintaining this vigilance with the students.

Yours,

Cormac UaBruadair

Deputy Head/ Head of Boarding