

23 September 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

Staying Safe with COVID-19

Thank you all for the support you are providing to your sons, daughters and family members attending BCoT this year. We really appreciate your efforts in encouraging everyone to follow the measures we have put in place to ensure that we are all safe when in college. We continue to actively review the situation and have recently introduced additional measures to tighten things further. Keeping everyone safe is the highest priority.

With national indicators pointing to a substantial rise in COVID-19 cases through the autumn term it is more important than ever that we maintain our vigilance.

Since the college introduced the requirement for everyone on-site to wear a face covering in communal areas there has been a very positive response from the majority of the college community. We are now beginning a discussion with those people who are claiming an exemption from the requirement to wear a mask as we recognise that there are higher numbers than we expected. If we do not all wear a face covering the overall effectiveness of this as a means of preventing the spread of the virus is greatly reduced. The college has purchased face visors and we hope that for most people with an exemption to wearing a mask this will be an acceptable alternative. Anyone with a medical condition that prevents them from wearing either a mask or a visor will be able to continue to attend college as they do currently.

The college has also introduced seating plans in classrooms, requiring students to sit in the same place in each lesson. If we have a case of a student testing positive for COVID-19 we will be able to restrict the requirement to go into self-isolation to those people sitting close to the individual, rather than the whole class.

New arrangements for eating food have been introduced consisting mainly of a 'grab and go' offer. With the weather likely to worsen soon it will not be possible for everyone to go outside to eat so we have identified indoor areas where students can remain in their bubbles, access the refectory and cafe, and then sit down inside to eat.

The full risk assessment and identification of risk mitigation measures we are taking has been posted on our website [COVID-19 BCoT Risk Assessment](#) should you wish to see further details.

Finally, may I remind you what to do if your son or daughter has COVID-19 symptoms; that is a new persistent cough, high temperature and a loss or change to your sense of taste or smell. They must not come into college as they are required to self-isolate, but you should inform us of the situation and we can arrange for them to access lessons remotely until the results of a COVID-19 test are known.

I am grateful for all you can do to support the college in these challenging times.

Yours faithfully

Anthony Bravo
Principal