



Salesian Secondary College

Commencement of School Year 2021



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When do I start back?

These are the key dates for your diary and are subject to change, according to public health advice.

Staff induction day (no students):
Friday, August 27th

Monday, August 30th.
1st Years only. 9-3.20.

Tuesday, August 31st
2nd, TY and 5th Years only. 9-4.00

Wednesday, September 1st.
3rd and 6th Years only, 9-3.20

Thursday, September 2nd.
All staff and students in, 9-4.00.

Friday, September 3rd.
All staff and students in, 9-3.20

Leaving Cert 2021

Leaving Cert results are expected to issue on the 3rd September. These will not be available in school, but will be issued directly to candidates through the student portal. Candidates will be awarded the better of the two grades available to them: Written Paper or Accredited Grade. CAO Round 1 offers issue on 7th September.

We wish all candidates the best of luck.

Supports will be available in school when results and CAO offers issue.



Dear Students, Parents / Guardians,

I hope you have had a good summer of sunshine and rest. We are busy making preparations for the return of our students and the arrival of our new first years. We are looking forward to welcoming everyone.

Public Health advice is to continue to adhere to protocols put in place for everyone's safety last year. Some safe modifications of our Covid Response Plan are possible which I outline here.

As always, if you have any queries or concerns, please contact us.

My warm wishes to you all.

Ms. Morgan-O'Brien.

Where will I go when I arrive on Day 1?

Teaching and Learning will take place in Teacher Based rooms throughout the year. Thus, students will move from teacher to teacher. Strict seating plans will be observed, for the purposes of contact tracing, should that need arise.

On your first day, please go to the following rooms:

1st Year

Rooms Bos3, Bos4, Bos5, Bos6
(Through Main Entrance)

2nd Year

Bos11, Bos12, Bos13, Bos14, Bos 5 (Long Corridor)

3rd Year

Bos12, Bos13, Bos14, Bos15 (Long Corridor)

Transition Year

Rooms Bos3, Bos4, Bos5, Bos6
(Through Main Entrance)

5th Year

Rooms Bos18, Bos19, Bos20, Bos21, Bos22 (Top floor)

6th Year

Bos1, Bos3, Bos4, Bos5, Bos6, Rit1, Rit2
(Through Main Entrance)

Thereafter, please follow your timetable, available soon on VSWare.

Social Distancing.

Students are asked to continue to observe social distancing and keep 2M distance when on corridors and in outside spaces. Please observe the one-way traffic system. Students will be spending recreation time in designated zones, as last year.

1st and 2nd Year: Back Quad area

3rd Year: An Cruinniú and area at exit from the building "Rita."

TY and 5th Year: Front Quad.

6th Year: Savio and back pitch.

Where space allows, 1M distancing will be observed between desks in the classrooms. This will not be possible in every case. Strict seating plans will be observed.



Student Traffic.

We operate a one-way system throughout the school. Students are asked to observe the one-way system carefully.

Stairs at the side entrance hallway are "UP"; stairs at the Biology end of the school are "DOWN." There is NO EXIT to Building Rita from the side entrance.

Will I have a locker?

This is one of the things that new 1st Years look forward to each year and we look forward to making a locker available to you as social distancing requirements are relaxed in time.

Until we can make lockers available for everyone, all students are asked to carry a school bag to and from school, with the items you need for the day with you. You will be responsible for your own belongings.

THERE WILL BE NO LOST PROPERTY LOCATION, as texts and belongings should not be shared or borrowed.

You are advised to put a copy of your timetable in a visible spot at home, so that you can plan the contents of your school bag each evening.

Ventilation.

The Government will soon distribute CO2 monitors to schools, to enable us to monitor air quality. Classrooms will be ventilated throughout the day. Students are advised that **ONLY SCHOOL JACKETS** may be worn this year. There are 3 choices of jacket, available from O'Neills online or Noel's in the Crescent SC.

What will I bring to school?

A digital device eg smart phone, tablet or laptop
TURNED OFF.

Headphones.

A pencil case with your own stationery items.

A folder with loose leaf pages and sections for each subject.

School uniform, with your name on all items.

Face covering. The school will provide 2 masks when you arrive but you must come to school in a mask.

A school bag with your name clearly on the front.
Your own water, if you wish.

What do I leave at home?

Some textbooks.....some teachers will need to use textbooks, others will not. Plan your day carefully and consider bringing **SECTIONS** of your books to school OR use digital copies, so that you are not carrying unnecessary weight.

Locker key.....lockers will not be available as we open. This continues to be a matter for review

Non uniform items: eg personal hoodies, jackets. All easing of uniform rules in place at the end of term last year are **REVERSED** now; we are back to **STRICT UNIFORM POLICY**, please.

Artificial nails.....**PLEASE DO NOT APPLY** long artificial nails for hand-hygiene purposes. Please keep them **SHORT!**

Piercings.....the usual rules re facial and body piercings apply. This is true also when wearing a facial mask.

Do I have to purchase online texts?

No. A digital version of the textbooks you have purchased is available for free by using the code given on the inside of the text.

It is a good idea to download these e-texts before we return, to aide digital learning plans.



I went abroad on holidays. Can I come back to school?

If you are returning from a country which is not on the green list, you must have a period of quarantine and / or a negative Covid test. Please check public health guidelines for updates.

Please use the App to indicate if you have been abroad and are in quarantine.

But we can't wait 'til you come back!

Will there be Evening Study this year?

Yes. Evening Study will be available to all. Details will be made available on the App.

How do I stay updated with current information?

Download the school App
Stay in touch with your Year Head.



What do I do at lunch time?

All year groups have been designated outdoor leisure space, for use at break time and lunch time. Students may not move out of their designated zone.

The canteen will be available for tea and toast in the morning. At break time, rolls and limited seating will be available. At lunchtime, a takeaway service will be available. **STUDENTS MUST CLEAN AND SANITISE THEIR TABLE AND CHAIR AFTER EATING.**

This is subject to ongoing review.

The school is very grateful to the Management of the Agricultural College for this facility.

On rainy days, students may eat in classrooms BUT a strict cleaning routine will be in place.

The school shop will remain closed.

Will Social Distancing be enforced?

The school remains committed to making it possible for students and teachers to be socially distant as soon as they enter the school buildings.

Teenagers want to be together and the greatest challenge of the school will be in keeping the young people socially distant, so that they can be safe and healthy for themselves and their families. After a leisurely summer, it will be difficult for many.

Teachers and school management **will** remind students to be socially distant, and to keep at least 2m apart., when outside the classroom. Where this is not possible, a mask must be worn. This is the case both **INSIDE** and **OUTSIDE**.

However, as this will be next to impossible to enforce and as it relies so greatly on personal choice, we are asking Parents / Guardians to coach your sons and daughters on the importance of taking personal responsibility in all areas of Covid Self Care.

Please respect social distancing guidelines. The school Code of Behaviour has been modified to address this risk to health of members of our school community. This will be available to you on our school website.

Will I have PE class this year?

Yes! In fact PE is more important than ever now. We have lots of wonderful outdoor space to use in our school.

We await further guidelines of the operation of PE and the use of indoor space.

Students may wear PE uniform to school on PE days. This will give your school uniform time to dry, if it has been washed at home.

Changing rooms and showers will not be open.

We will monitor this situation as we go along and arrange "PE Days" off site, if the need arises.

Do I have to wear a mask?

Yes. All students must wear a mask on the school bus and while in school.

Teachers and other adults will wear a mask and / or visor, which will be provided by the school.

Students will be supplied with two cloth Salesian Secondary College masks (school insignia on the front) which will be the student's responsibility. Lost or damaged masks will be replaced for a fee of 3 euro per mask.

We will deliver SPHE modules on all elements of Covid Self Care, at the start of the school year and periodically thereafter, including the safe use of masks.

Students who cannot wear a mask for medical reasons must indicate that this is so on the school App, directly to the Year Head, please.



What other protocols exist?

Please continue to observe cough etiquette.

Students and staff are asked to exercise healthy hand hygiene...

On arrival at school;
Before eating or drinking
After using the toilet
After petting animals
After playing outdoors
When their hands are physically dirty
When they cough or sneeze
As they enter and leave a classroom

Hand sanitiser units are in place throughout the school building and at the doorway of every class.

Students are encouraged to bring pocket sized sanitiser in their pencil cases.

Inappropriate use of sanitiser gel or abuse of the dispensing units is now covered by our Code of Behaviour.

To ensure effective hand hygiene, students are asked NOT TO APPLY LONG FALSE NAILS on return to school.

Are we finished with Online Learning?

We have learned a great deal from digital teaching and learning and there are lots of “positives” to take away from the experience.

To enhance the work of the classroom, we will be continuing to turn to digital teaching and learning while we are open, in the case of prolonged absence of a staff member or student or in the case of future closure.

We are here to help. Please inform us if access is a problem in your family.

Life during Covid has taken its toll on me. Who is there for me?

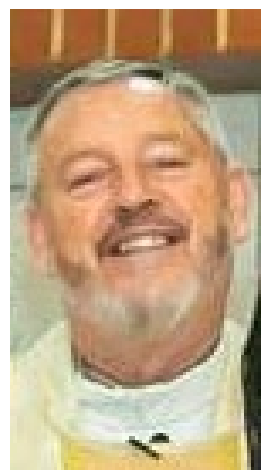
Our Salesian school strives to be a place of belonging for all: please contact us if your child is feeling lonely or worried.

Our Pastoral Care Team and our Guidance Counsellors are available for all students.

We are thrilled to welcome Fr. Tim Wrenn (back) to our school. Fr. Tim joins our existing Chaplaincy, Pastoral Care and Ethos teams and he looks forward to getting to know students and families in his new role.

We want to create a sense of safety, a sense of calm, a sense of belonging and connectedness, a belief that “I can be in control” and a sense of hope.

We are all feeling a sense of fatigue with restrictions and optimism that we may be coming to the end of a difficult time. Returning to routines and the normal school day is something to look forward to!



How will the Buses Operate?

Students are hearing directly from Bus Eireann about bus arrangements.

All students will be assigned seating.

You are being asked to sit in family groups where this is possible.

Wearing a mask on the school bus will be compulsory.

Buses will operate at 50% capacity. Please contact your bus company if you are concerned.

When you arrive at school, go **STRAIGHT TO YOUR** designated classroom. You will not have a locker.



IT Purchase Options Available.

All students need access to a digital device of some kind. The school has arranged laptop options for students who wish to purchase new, from the below.

Otherwise, use your smart phone OR please try to borrow from a family member, inherit, repurpose or share a family device.



Your PC Technology Limited

Email : sales@yourpc.ie

Phone : 061 633762

Web Address : www.yourpc.ie



Classroom Names.

Over the summer, we have re-named rooms in the school, to reflect the growing and changing nature of the school site.

Our beautiful “Old Building” is now known as “Bosco”, taking our founder’s name, with all rooms known as “Bos1”, “Bos2” etc.

Our “New Building”, built 21 years ago, is now known as “Rita”, for Don Bosco’s mother. Rooms here are known as “Rit1”, “Rit2” etc.

Our Savio building remains named for the Salesian saint, Dominic Savio. Rooms here are “Sav1”, “Sav2” etc.

Speaking of Savio, located beside our Dominic Savio statue is our “Cruinniú”, a beautiful outdoor classroom and gathering and performance space.

Smaller rooms, used for meetings, learning support etc, are given letters eg “Sav6A” is located beside “Sav6” and is used as the SEN office and learning space.

This will take a little getting used to! All timetables will show the new classroom



I learn best with supports? Will I be ok?

Yes.

There will be opportunities to “catch up” built into the timetable and through Resource and Learning Support classes.

The DEN will be fully operational.

SNAs will be on hand to provide support in their special way too.

For all, the priority is to settle in, make connections with classmates and start good learning habits.

Will there be extra curricular activities this year?

We certainly hope so!

We plan to train, rehearse and meet, if public health guidelines allow. We are awaiting further guidance....but please return to school with the intention of getting involved as much as possible.



Will there be a full TY programme?

YES

TY is one of the busiest year groups in the school and there is a great deal planned for you.

We hope to run our annual Killary trip in the first term. Last year's TYs will be enabled to attend a Killary trip too, which will help you settle into 5th Year.

There are plans for the Musical and foreign trip also. We are feeling optimistic and hopeful!

Can I go on work experience this year?

Yes. Work Experience ran successfully last year, both for TY and LCA students. We will review 5th Year Work Experience as the year goes by.

**What do I do if I feel Sick?
What do I do if I am a CLOSE CONTACT?**

YOU MUST STAY AT HOME if symptomatic of Covid or deemed a CLOSE CONTACT of a positive Covid case.

Parents, please do NOT send a student to school if they have complained of feeling sick, as there will not be capacity to isolate or supervise groups of students.

Please do NOT come to school if you are a CLOSE CONTACT or awaiting a Covid test. At all times, follow HSE guidelines.

We know that coming to school is challenging for some students. Please contact us if your child is complaining of feeling unwell and you are concerned about school refusal.



Where can I get Covid Advice from the DES?

There is video advice available for Parents / Guardians here:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a04fc-advice-for-students-and-their-families/#returning-to-school>

What is the HSE advice re vaccination for 12-18 year olds?

(source <https://www2.hse.ie/screening-and-vaccinations/covid-19-vaccine/get-the-vaccine/deciding-on-vaccination-for-12-to-15-year-olds>)

While vaccination for the school going age group is not mandatory, close contact status, as well as other protocols pertaining to the young person, are likely to be different, depending on whether a young person is vaccinated or not. Below is the current advice from HSE re vaccination for the 12-18 year old age group.

Benefits of getting a COVID-19 vaccine

COVID-19 vaccines should protect your child from getting seriously ill from COVID-19 if they have [certain health conditions](#).

It will also protect healthy 12 to 15 year old children from:

- mild to severe COVID-19 illness
- [multisystem inflammatory syndrome](#) due to COVID-19
- the risk of developing 'long COVID' symptoms, such as tiredness and fatigue
- spreading COVID-19 to others

Children who are vaccinated will be less likely to miss school and other activities because of being ill with COVID-19.

COVID-19 and children aged 12 to 15

Most children aged 12 to 15 who get COVID-19 have very mild symptoms or no symptoms.

But children who get COVID-19 need to [isolate from other people](#) even if their symptoms are mild. This is to stop the spread of the virus. They need to stay at home for at least 10 days from when they develop symptoms or test positive.

We've been busy over the summer.

We have a brand new staffroom, located at the heart of the school, in the Rita building.

We have a new classroom in the old Teacher Work Room, known as Rit2.

The Sports Hall has had a makeover.

We have opened a suite of new Den classrooms and ancillary space.

We have improved IT facilities in classrooms around the site.

The Cruinniú has been beautifully landscaped.

Room 18 (Rit.8) is now a designated Science classroom.

We have created a new Teacher Work Room, Year Head office and resource space in Savio House.

The Special Ed. Needs Coordinator has a new office and teaching space in Savio.

We remain very grateful for the generosity of the Salesian order who support us in these developments.

I'm concerned about my child's phone use.

So are we! During school closure, we know that students became reliant on phones to stay connected and entertained. However, now we can gather together again and exercise our "real life communication muscle!"

In school, phones should not take the place of face to face conversation. Gaming and tiktok or other social media use is not to be encouraged at school.

Please support us as we insist that your child gets out in the fresh air, or mixes with classmates, during recreation time.

Please do not use your child's phone to contact him / her during the day. Waiting for a text or call is distracting and stressful for the young person. If you are concerned about your child in this way, please contact us.

Use the school office to get a message to your child.

The message is "PUT AWAY THE PHONE WHEN IN SCHOOL!"