



A.M.D.G.

CRESCENT COLLEGE COMPREHENSIVE S.J.

DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK V94 W6W8

Dear Parents,

As part of the Mission Statement of our school it states the 'school strives to create a strong sense of community between parents, students and teachers', I believe that community has been to the fore in the recent weeks. I would like to thank all of the above groups for your co-operation in the safe full reopening of Crescent College Comprehensive S.J. In addition, the wellbeing of students, staff and parents has been enhanced by the positive nature of the engagement since our return.

Some Updates:

Student Behaviour: Can I commend all of your son/daughters for the positive way in which they have engaged with the current public health advice and measures that have been put in place to keep everyone safe so far. The students have been fantastic in adapting to new routines in school. We are happy that students are getting plenty of fresh air at break times but we would like to stress that students should maintain social distancing in outdoor areas also. There will be constant challenges and changes over the year but so far so good!

Microsoft Teams/Office 365: Teachers are now setting up Teams for all their students via our Microsoft Teams Platform. This is intended to be the means of setting assignments and notes etc. It is important that as the primary educators parents are aware and familiar with this system. The following link is a very useful guide for parents to understand what Teams is about. I would encourage all parents to take time to discuss your son/daughters use of Teams.

It's available at the following link which you can access at

<https://sites.google.com/lcetbdrive.com/lcetbdrive-com/microsoft-365>

School Payments: As I outlined in June we have changed from the voluntary contribution system to a more focused and reduced payment for each year group. I would like to thank all the parents who have paid so far, these payments can be over a 10 month period to help in terms of budgeting. I know some parents are wondering if certain activities don't go ahead what will happen my payment? For example: The T.Y Payment includes our annual outdoor pursuit's trip to Achill, we are hoping that over time perhaps the public health situation will improve so we are planning accordingly. As was the case last year we will refund any monies associated with any activity that doesn't take place. In terms of sports payments we have reduced all the payments from last year's level and again if certain activities don't take place we will refund accordingly. Regarding expenditure on sport the sports payments never cover our sporting programme costs and last year an additional 50,000 euro had to be allocated to cover the cost.

School Drop Off/Collection: As in my previous messages and in line with public health advice, I would encourage students to walk or cycle if they can to school. It is the healthiest option for students who can do this. In terms of collection please ensure that you park in the designated areas and don't park on the roundabout areas or on the avenue. With extra-curricular activities not taking place as normal straight after the end of school this means that there are more cars than previous years so please be patient and also careful as student safety is paramount.

Supervised Study: Supervised Study has resumed this week and Mr. Eamon Tuite has sent the necessary details to all students and parents. Please if you have any concerns feel free to contact Mr. Tuite.

Physical Education: Physical Education Classes have taken place as normal due to the excellent and safe plan put in place by our P.E. Department in advance of our return. All students must partake in P.E. and it is a very valuable activity for student wellbeing so please ensure that your son/daughter is engaging with this subject.

Extra-Curricular Activity: With the current public health advice in place, we cannot offer our extra-curricular activity directly after school as communal changing rooms are not permitted by NEPHET. I am delighted that we have an extensive extra-curricular programme in place at different times during the week. I regret that it may not be a suitable time for some students but in the current situation we must adhere to the advice regarding communal changing rooms. I want to thank our staff members and outside coaches for their generosity in giving their time for these activities to take place. If your son/daughter is availing of any extra-curricular options please make sure that you have paid the appropriate sports payment.

Lunch Breaks: As to provide a safe 1m socially distanced classroom environment we had to redesign our school canteen into two classrooms. That has left us with a deficit in terms of covered space for students at lunchbreaks. We wish for our students to be in the fresh air as much as possible so we are looking at ways in which we can enhance our covered provision at lunch breaks. The Department of Education have refused our application for Temporary Accommodation to help us which is disappointing so I am with the B.O.M. and Parents Council looking at our options. I would encourage any parents who may have ideas around this issue to contact our parent's council. We are determined to find a workable solution!

School Canteen: The cashless system is now up and running in the canteen which allows us to continue with this facility. Cards can be purchased on Easy Payments and over 500 students have availed of this process so far.

Best Wishes,
Diarmuid Mullins