



Sancta Maria College, Louisburgh, Co. Mayo
Mean Scoil Sancta Maria, Cluain Cearbán, Co Mhaigh Eo

10 May 2022

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

It is hard to believe that the school year is coming to an end and, as usual, before we even finish 21/22 we have to think about 22/23. We hope this will be the last year that Covid-19 will have a negative impact on school life.

We are planning to return to subject based classrooms next year, which means students will move to their teachers rather than the way things have been through Covid where we had class-based rooms. The advantage of subject based rooms is that teachers have access to more resources and subject related student work can be displayed making for a richer learning environment.

We are also planning for one-hour classes next year. You may remember we trialed this during the mocks and February formals and it was extremely well received by both staff and students. Students felt the day went much quicker and they were less tired, their bags were lighter as they only have six lessons a day and they got more done in class. We are also ending Tutor time first thing in the morning. First class will begin at 8.50. First break will be at 10.50 and will last for ten minutes, lunch will be at 1pm for forty minutes so class will resume at 1.40pm. School will finish at 3.40pm Monday – Thursday and at 1pm on Friday. As first break is only 10 minutes students will not be allowed leave the school grounds at this time. A student run tuck shop will be operating to provide snacks/water. Students will continue to be allowed up town at lunch time (1pm to 1.40pm), although as a full extra-curricular activity schedule will be available we hope more students will stay in and participate. The tuck shop will be open at lunch time too.

Students will continue to have a tutor assigned to their class. They will meet their tutor at 1.40pm on Wednesday. On Wednesday we will run a school wide wellbeing programme (Wellbeing on Wednesday – WOW!) and there will be activities for everyone to participate in. We hope that this will help to increase a sense of community, resilience and joy in our students. Tutors play a key pastoral role for students, supporting and encouraging all students to be their best selves. In the past you would have contacted the tutor if your child was absent or going to leave school early/arrive late etc. From September on all contact between home and school re. absences should be addressed to Ms. Foy. Finola will oversee attendance as we try to improve this aspect of school life. She will liaise with parents who may be finding it difficult to get their child out to school in the morning, those who consistently leave school early etc. She will also put in place programmes to support students and parents if necessary. Good attendance will be even more important with one-hour classes as students will meet their teachers less often during the week. Finola's email is

finolafoy@sanctamaria.ie

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PRINCIPAL: DR. ÁINE MORAN DEPUTY: MR. MICHAEL DAVITT





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The school uniform has also become a bit 'looser' during Covid times. We hope that from now on this can revert to how things were 'BC'. The school uniform for Sancta Maria College is:

- Grey school trousers/Grey school skirt (can be bought anywhere)
- Any type of all **black shoe** (black soles, laces etc) These can be canvas, runners, leather, sports shoe, pumps etc. But they must be **shoes** – not boots
- White Shirt (this is a white cotton/cotton mix formal shirt – not a polo shirt/t-shirt)
- Crested school Jacket
- Crested school jumper.

The school jacket was provided to all students free of charge last year. The incoming first years and new students joining the school have to buy their jacket. If the jacket given to your child is lost or they have outgrown it you will need to buy a new one. These are available from the School Wear Centre in Galway (through their website/school pop-up shop). The school jumper continues to be available through John O'Brien's Menswear in Westport.

This year we are introducing a PE uniform. It is a half zip sports top, T-shirt and tracksuit bottoms. Students can wear their PE uniform on the day that they have PE all day – to avoid having to change. If you choose not to buy a PE uniform, students can still wear the generic white top and grey tracksuit bottoms for PE. They must change into this before PE and change back into uniform afterwards. If students have a PE uniform, on milder days, they can wear the top to school over their uniform instead of the school jacket. If your child has sensory issues and cannot wear the school jumper, we are now providing a cotton version. If this is still uncomfortable for your child, children with sensory issues can be allowed to wear a PE uniform full time, on a case by case basis.

For the convenience of parents, we are holding a **Pop-up Uniform shop in Sancta Maria College on this coming Thursday 12th May from 2.30pm until 4.30pm and again on this Friday afternoon, 13th May from 2.30pm until 4.30pm**. All items of the uniform are available to pre-order on the day and will be posted to you before mid-August. We have also emailed your son/daughter an order form should you require it.

In September we are introducing a House Structure to Sancta Maria College. This is an initiative that we hope will support the deepening of bonds and community between students in all years in the school. Students will be randomly assigned to a House. In order to identify students who, belong to your House Group each student will be given a House tie with a unique House Colour stripe. This will be provided free by the school on House Day in early September.

We appreciate there is a lot of information in this letter but we hope it answers some of the questions that may be circulating.

Best wishes,

Dr. Moran
Principal

Mr. Davitt
Deputy Principal

Ms. Foy
Deputy Principal

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