



St. Columba's College, Stranorlar, Co. Donegal.

Phone (074) 9131246 Fax (074) 9132528

9th April, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope you and all your family enjoyed the Easter holidays and are keeping well. It is hard to believe that all of our year groups, with the exception of our 5th and 6th Years, have worked remotely since Christmas. While remote learning is no substitute for the face to face interactions of normal school-life, it was the best that we could do to ensure learning and teaching could continue in the midst of high levels of Covid-19 in our communities. We wish to acknowledge the efforts made by students to engage with the online classes and other remote learning features despite a number of challenges. We also wish to thank you for your support during the school closure.

We look forward to welcoming back our 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Transition Year students on Monday 12th April. We hope the remainder of their time in second level will not be disrupted by the current virus or any other situations that may arise.

Our Covid-19 Plan for the safe and sustainable reopening of St. Columba's College

Our Covid-19 Plan for the reopening of the college is under constant review and will be implemented in full over the next number of weeks. The following points must be considered by parents as their son(s)/daughter(s) return to school:

- We will require your cooperation in the completion of a 'Return to School Parental Declaration' as recommended by the HSE. This form, along with other policies and Covid-19 related documentation, is available on our website (www.stcolumbascollege.ie) in the 'Phased Reopening of Schools' section on our home page. I have also attached the 'Return to School Parental Declaration' to this letter. We ask that you print off this form, complete it and send it in with your son/daughter on their return to school.
- It is very important that you review the health of your son/daughter before their return to school watching out for signs of fever, dry cough, loss of smell or taste, fatigue and sore throat.
- If your son/daughter has been in contact with a person who has a confirmed case of Covid19 or anyone who has been tested and is awaiting test results, you must contact the school to notify us and do not permit your son/daughter to return to the school without seeking advice from your GP.
- Students should not to return or attend school if they have travelled outside of Ireland; in such instances parents and students are advised to consult and follow latest Government advice in relation to foreign travel

Principal: Mr. Tom Rowan

Deputy Principal: Mr. John Sweeney, Ms. Georgina White

- Nationally it is not recommended the close contacts of close contacts need to also restrict their movements, and therefore siblings of close contacts identified through the schools setting can still attend school. If there are particular concerns following the confirmation of a Covid-19 case and school Public Health Risk Assessment being undertaken, the public health doctor may sometimes request siblings also restrict their movements, but this will be a specific clinical recommendation.
- We ask students to cooperate with any public health officials and the school for contact tracing purposes and follow any public health advice in the event of a case or outbreak in the school.

Daily checks

Each student must take responsibility in declaring to their parent/guardian in the event of the development of symptoms as listed above. Should a student come to school feeling unwell and later has a diagnosis of Covid19, it would have a detrimental effect, not only to the other students and staff at the school but also put the lives of others in the wider community at risk due to cross contamination. In the event that your son/daughter develops symptoms or feels unwell during the school day, he/she will be facilitated in our Infirmary (near front gate). You will be contacted and your son/daughter must be collected immediately from the Infirmary (you will not have to enter the school building). It will not be possible to keep the student in the Infirmary for the duration of the school day.

Return of Chromebooks

We were in a position to loan out Chromebooks to students when the school did not reopen as planned in January. However, we need these devices in school as all students return. I would appreciate if your son/daughter would return any borrowed device on their return to school on Monday 12th April.

Contacting the School

Please do not hesitate to contact us at the school on (074) 9131246 or by email at admin@stcolumbasstranorlar.ie and we will do all we can to address your query as soon as possible. In the meantime, please follow the advice of the HSE and the Government;

Additional Information

A considerable number of announcements regarding the phases reopening of schools is available on www.gov.ie. These and further updates will be available on our college website at http://www.stcolumbascollege.ie/web/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=351%3Aphased-reopening-of-schools&catid=1%3Alatest-news&Itemid=117&lang=en

Thank you for your continued support of our school and we look forward to the safe return of your son/daughter to the college.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Tom Rowan, Principal

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Deputy Principal: Mr. John Sweeney, Ms. Georgina White



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Return to School Parental Declaration Form

Student's Name:	Principal's Name: Mr. T. Rowan
Parents/Guardian's Name:	
Name of School: St. Columba's College	
This form is to be used when students are returning to the college after any absence.	
Declaration: I have no reason to believe that my son/daughter has an infectious disease and I have followed all medical and public health guidance with respect to the exclusion of my son/daughter from St. Columba's College.	
Signed: _____ (Parent)	
Date: _____	

Principal: Mr. Tom Rowan

Deputy Principal: Mr. John Sweeney, Ms. Georgina White