



**Blackwater
Integrated
College
Restart 2020**



COLLEGE BULLETIN

RESTART UPDATE

Following guidance issued by the Education Minister we have carried out a great deal of work to devise a plan for students to restart the next academic year. We are very pleased to be seeing all of our students again after such a long period and have carefully planned our restart to allow us to have time separately with each year group to go through new routines and procedures for the new school day. This has been very challenging but we aim to make school as safe a place as possible for students and staff. To do this there will need to be some changes to the normal school day and these are outlined below.

This plan is very flexible and there will undoubtedly be changes as time evolves and some routines simply will not be feasible or will need to be altered. We hope to work closely with parents to ensure that students' return to school is as smooth as possible and that they return to as safe and happy an environment as possible. I realise that there is a lot of information to read through and I urge you to read it carefully and discuss with your child. Everything we aim to put in place will be to try to make the college as safe an environment as possible for all of the community and we will keep it under constant review.

Key dates:



The starting dates for students in each year group are listed below:

Year 12 start Monday 24th August and attend all week starting at 8.45am and finishing at 3.10pm as normal. There will be limited transport available during this week and all students will need to bring a packed lunch.

Year 8 induction will be on Friday 28th August from 9.30am- 12.30pm. Parents will need to bring students to the school as transport will not be available at these times. A break time snack only will be needed as students are only in the college for 3 hours.

Monday 31st August -

Bank Holiday (College Closed)

We have planned a staggered start to facilitate the return of all year groups. This will allow us to go through the different routines effectively with each year group. By Thursday 3rd September all year groups will have returned in full. The table that follows shows which year groups are in on which days for the first week in September.

DAY YEAR GROUP IN SCHOOL

TUESDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER - 12, 11, 8

WEDNESDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER - 12, 11, 10, 8

THURSDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER - ALL STUDENTS

FRIDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER - ALL STUDENTS

Transport:



Transport is very much out of our control as a college and the latest guidance we have been given is below:

- *Home to school transport, either on public bus services or on dedicated transport services, should only be used where there is no alternative available such as walking or cycling.*
- *It is strongly recommended that all pupils regardless of age should wear a face covering on all buses, trains or taxis for the journey to school where it is appropriate for them to do so and they are able to handle them as directed.*
- *Translink is planning to run additional dedicated school buses on routes where there is a large number of members of the public wishing to use Translink's peak time public bus services.*
- *Under the current social distancing guidelines, it is unlikely that there will be capacity to provide all eligible pupils with a seat on a public transport service. The Department of Education and the Education Authority are currently exploring all options for minimising the disruption that this may cause, including the provision of more dedicated school bus services.*

I can only apologise about the lack of certainty as regards transport and we will try to answer all queries you may have. It is completely outside of our control and we will continue to try to get more certainty around the services available for our students. We will obviously be understanding of students arriving late into school due to issues with transport in the initial stages of starting back to school.

Restart routines:



- School will start at 8.45am and finish at 3.10pm as normal
- There is strictly no early drop off in the morning. Students should not be on school premises until 8.35am at the earliest (exceptions will be made for students arriving early on EA scheduled transport or taxis)

Restart routines cont'd :



- School uniform is to be worn at all times. PE kit may be worn on the days students have PE.
- No child should be sent to school with any cold or flu like symptoms in case it also happens to be COVID-19. Anyone showing signs of Covid-19 will be sent home immediately and asked to follow Public Health guidelines. No child should attend school if anyone in their household is displaying symptoms of COVID-19.
- Any child who is arriving back from a country requiring quarantining should not attend school until 14 days after the arrival date.
- Parents with a child having underlying health conditions (heart, diabetes, asthma, etc) should seek medical advice about their child attending school with social distancing measures in place. The College will work with the parent and child if they have to remain at home during this time to provide guidance and work.
- Junior school students (Years 8-10) will operate largely in 'bubbles' and remain in the same classroom with teachers rotating and Senior students (Years 11/12) will mostly follow their normal timetable.
- There will be no practical classes (eg. HE, Technology and Art) for Junior students until w/c 14th September to reduce movement around the school while daily procedures become embedded.
- At present students will not need school bags as all books and stationery will remain in school. This will be kept under review.
- On the first day back students should bring their own stationery into school and it will remain in school. Please place the materials in an easily cleaned plastic box (no cloth pencil cases). Stationery required is: pencils, blue/black pens, sharpener, rubber, ruler, calculator and colouring pencils. This will not be shared between students.
- There will be no text or stationery books sent back and forth from home to school to prevent any cross contamination. Homework will not be issued in books or workbooks. Any homework issued will be expected to be completed online.

Hygiene:



- Hygiene will be paramount. Talk to your children about the need to wash hands regularly and show them how to do it correctly. Show children how to use a tissue with the 'catch it, bin it and kill it' routine.
- School toilets and touchable surfaces will be cleaned more often during the day. Extra cleaning procedures will be in place during the school day and extra staff have been employed to clean at the end of each school day.
- Students are advised to carry their own tissues, hand sanitiser and face coverings.
- Students must take time throughout the day to wash their hands thoroughly and must follow instructions when asked to do so.

The New School Day



Arrival at school:

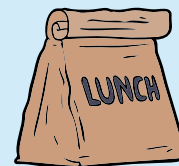
- Students should not be on school premises until 8.35am (exception will be made for those students dropped off early due to EA transport or taxi schedules)
- The turning circle will be a drop off zone for children in the morning but cannot be used in the afternoon due to buses requiring this space.
- **No parents** are to come into the college building. Disabled badge holders will be able to park if necessary.
- On arrival, students should enter by the side gate only and go directly to the playground where they should use the hand sanitiser provided.
- Students should maintain social distance as far as possible in the playground. Staff will be on duty to supervise at this time.
- At 8.45am, students will go to their class base room for Years 8-10 and their form room for Years 11 and 12.
- There will not be any breakfast club provision at this stage - this may resume later in the year.
- Late students (after 8.45am) should enter through the front door and use hand sanitiser. Mrs Thomas will then record their attendance and sign them in.

Break:



- There will be no canteen service at break so students should bring their own snack with them. This will be reviewed for w/c 14th September
- Students in Years 8, 9 and 10 will have break from 10.20am - 10.35am; students in Years 11 and 12 will have break from 10.35am -10.50am

Lunch:



- For Year 12 students in the week commencing 24th August there will not be a canteen service and a packed lunch will be required.
- A more limited canteen service than usual will be available from w/c 31st August.
- Students entitled to free school meals will have this provided from w/c 31st August.
- To allow students to remain within year group bubbles, each year group will have lunch at a different time.
- Students should have the correct change where possible for payment at the canteen

Collection / end of day:

- Parents should not enter the school turning circle / site to collect students as this area is required for buses.
- Parents are asked not to congregate at the school gates and instead should arrange a pick up point outside of the school site.
- Year groups will be released separately for buses / transport home.
- Year 8 will be released at 3.05pm.

Face coverings:

Guidance issued by the Department of Education states:

Face coverings are strongly encouraged for activities that entail large numbers of staff or pupils within an enclosed space where social distancing is not possible.

Given the risk mitigations in place in school to limit and contain the spread of COVID-19, face coverings are not generally recommended for routine use in schools. Staff and pupils may wish to use them during the routine school day and this is acceptable. We are aware that some persons (including children) are exempt from wearing face coverings.

At Blackwater IC **all students will be expected to bring face coverings** and may be asked to wear them at certain times when it is deemed necessary. A face covering is a covering of any type which covers your nose and mouth and a school scarf may be used if washed daily. **They will not be worn all day in every classroom and only where social distancing is not possible in larger groups.** If they are not disposable, face coverings should be washed daily.

Test and Trace:

All students and staff are encouraged to download the Stop Covid-19 App to help with tracing in the event that a student or member of staff tests positive. The app is available to download at Apple Store and Google Play. Pupils will be permitted to bring mobile phones to school, however, they must not be used without permission from a member of staff. Our normal Mobile Phone policy will apply.



Home / School communication:



We will endeavour to maintain good contact with parents about any changes through text messaging and social media / college newsletter. This will be very important and it worked well during lockdown. Parents / Guardians of our new Year 8 students will start to receive text messages once they are officially onto our computer system from 1st September.

Communication or conversations with parents will mostly take place through phone calls where possible for the foreseeable future unless there are exceptional circumstances that require a face to face meeting.

Thank you for working with us at this time:

This is obviously a very challenging time and we recognise there will be a lot of adjustments necessary for students: we look forward to working with our students from day one to make up for lost time and support their mental health as they return to their learning in a safe and positive environment.

We realise there will be individual requirements necessary for some of our students and we will work with parents / guardians to try to meet them. We will be working through a contract with our students that is detailed on the next page to highlight the importance of compliance with the new college routines and this will be signed by all students after induction and discussion.

Once we return it would be good for parents to keep up to date with school life through our website, www.blackwateric.org or by following us on Facebook and Twitter (@BlackwaterIC) for updates. If you have queries please email: info@blackwateric.downpatrick.ni.sch.uk or private message through the school Facebook account.

Stephen Taylor
Principal



Blackwater Integrated College Student Contract - Coronavirus



In order to ensure the safety of students and staff in light of the Coronavirus, we are asking that all students agree to the following arrangements.

We are introducing these measures to create a safer environment, aiming to reduce the risk of transmission of infection.

It is essential that students follow the procedures and expectations carefully.

- Students who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household with symptoms, should not attend school.
- Students will follow all instructions given by teachers and other staff members and will follow all signage.
- Students will observe social distancing whilst on college premises, both outside and inside college buildings, as well as travelling to and from school, as far as this is possible.
- Students will not touch another student at any time.
- Students will not touch or share the property of other students.
- Students will not touch or share the property of the teacher in the classroom.
- Students will exercise good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'Catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- Students are advised to carry their own hand sanitiser, tissues and face coverings.
- Students will observe any one-way system which will be in operation and clearly signposted on some corridors.
- Students will regularly wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly, or use the hand sanitiser provided.
- Students will enter the college by the agreed door and apply hand sanitiser
- Students will not interfere with any of the sanitiser facilities.

If a student fails to comply with our expectations around protecting the health and safety of those in our college community sanctions will be applied.

The school has the right and authority to sanction students who wilfully refuse to adhere to arrangements of social distancing and deliberately cough or spit at students or staff, putting them at risk.

I have read and understand the measures above and agree to follow them carefully.
I understand the consequences of not observing them.

Student signature _____ Date _____

(All students will be asked to sign a copy of this contract when they return to school)