



*Building · Inspiring · Caring*

CIRCULAR 2021-22 TL020

To: Parents/Guardians of all enrolled students  
Cc: Bursar

October 2021

### **COVID 19**

In recent days we have seen an increase in the number of confirmed cases of COVID 19 in the College, the local community and neighbouring schools. We would ask you to please remain vigilant and remember the important steps below to try and reduce the spread.

- Lateral flow tests are still available from the College and we recommend them being used on Wednesday and Sunday to test for asymptomatic cases. Call us on 028 4461 2115 if you would like to get these tests for your child.
- If your child has symptoms of COVID please book them in for a PCR test and **do not send them to school**. A few recent cases have had headaches as the first symptom which is also something to be aware of.
- Face coverings are recommended in the College in classes and in the main building and canteen. Please ensure your child has a face covering if they are not exempt. This recommendation has been extended by the NI Executive after initially only being in place until the 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021.
- If your child tests positive they must follow the guidelines of the Public Health Authority who will also do any track and trace required to identify any close contacts.
- Please contact the College if your child tests positive and we will send an alert text to the students in that year group who will then be aware to monitor for any symptoms. If you receive a text this does not mean that your child has been identified as a close contact as this information will come directly from PHA.
- We have had households where one person is positive and the guidance states that the others in the household can carry on as normal if they test negative. We would urge caution with this and ask parents / guardians to use their judgement if there has been close contact with a positive case in their household and close contact has continued as we have seen a number of cases where the close contact has tested positive in the Day 8 test after testing negative in the Day 2 test.
- If you are unsure of any regulations or need advice please call us on 028 4461 2115 and we will do our best to help with any queries.

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Principal: Stephen Taylor BA Hons. PQH

As a College we will endeavour to follow all of the mitigations in place in relation to social distancing, hand sanitising, ventilation and designated spaces for different year groups. The responsibility for track and trace has now been moved from schools to PHA and it is no longer recommended that class bubbles and year groups isolate after a positive case. We will continue to communicate with parents and will work with parents who understandably have concerns about relatives and vulnerable members of their family. We will never name individual students or staff members who have tested positive in any communications and will only give general alerts about cases as PHA now have responsibility for contacting individuals who are close contacts.

Thank you for your understanding and for helping us to navigate our way through these challenging times.

Stephen Taylor  
Principal