



Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

We hope this finds you all well, and that you made the most of the Summer – weather good and bad, and now a return to fine weather just as return to school is in sight! Regardless of weather, restrictions and other privations, the main thing for each and every family is that you are safe and well, and that is – and will be – our dearest hope for all, not just in our school community, but everywhere.

Leaving school on the 13th March we would never have imagined that it would be almost six months before we returned! What a joy that, like all schools in the county, we can again reopen and resume the important work of educating our young people. Mohill Community College will be reopening on 28th August for Staff only. We have been working tirelessly to make sure our school will be a safe learning environment. Adjustments have been made in line with the Department of Education and Skills Roadmap for Reopening Schools. Preparations are ongoing and changes to classrooms, corridors and exits will all be part of our plan minimise the risk of Covid-19. A detailed account of all changes will be posted on our website before students return to school. A text will issue to you when this news bulletin is available on the website. Please await this bulletin as it will not be possible to answer individual queries.

Just as we adapted to the new normal of teaching and learning online from March to May, I have no doubt that our resilient young people will also adapt to new procedures, one way systems, altered classrooms and teaching spaces, new lunchtime arrangements for some, and the wearing of face masks by all students and teachers. We acknowledge that it will take time for all to get used to new routines and, as the Irish Proverb “Tús maith, leath na h’oibre” (a good beginning is half the work) tells us, we aim for a good beginning by giving each Year Group one day on their own in school. This is to allow for an opportunity for pastoral engagement with each group and equally importantly comprehensive induction into new policies and procedures.

Our schedule for re-opening is as follows:

- Monday 31st August First Year Students only 9.10 – 1.40
- Tuesday 1st September Fifth Year and Transition Year Students only 9.10 – 1.40
- Wednesday 2nd September Sixth Year Students only 9.10 – 1.40
- Thursday 3rd September Third Year Students only 9.10 – 1.40
- Friday 4th September Second year Students only 9.10 – 1.40

Thank you to parents/guardians, students and teachers who by working together and adapting quickly to our new reality ensured teaching and learning was still taking place while students were at home. A similar collective approach will now be required to limit and minimise the risk of Covid-19.

As per NEPHT Health and Safety Guidelines, students who are returning from countries not on the Government's Green List must **self-isolate** for 14 days before returning to school. **Face masks must be worn by all students** as we cannot ensure 2m social distancing in our classrooms or communal areas. If students or any member of their family have **Covid-19 like symptoms** they should not attend school and should inform us of this immediately.

We look forward to welcoming our incoming First Years to Mohill Community College. We realise that aspects of their transition into Post-Primary school have been disrupted. NYP together with school personnel have been working over the Summer with parents/guardians who joined the Transition programme. Thank you to all for this work which we greatly appreciate.

We look forward to seeing everyone back in school in the near future. If you have queries you can email us at mohillcommunitycollege@msletb.ie.

Yours Sincerely,

Úna Duffy