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Acting Principal Mr Paul Berne | BA Hons | PGCE

3rd September 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope our entire Edmund Rice College community have had a restful Summer period after a very challenging year. By now, most of our students have made their return to school for their induction. It has been great to see all the smiles and hear all the laughter that has been sorely missed in our corridors over the past few months. I trust that this period of induction has reassured all our pupils and parents and helped to build confidence ahead of the full reopening of Edmund Rice College.

On Monday 7th September, full school resumes for all pupils. To this end, I would like to remind you of the following procedures which will help keep our school community safe during this time:

Staggered Start

We would encourage that pupils do not use public transport but walk, cycle, or get a lift to school where possible. If a pupil must get a school bus, supervision will be available on site for only those pupils who get a school bus, from 8:15am. In order to avoid congestion at the school entrances to the building, pupils should stick strictly to the following times:

Year 8 pupils- 8:30-8:45am arrival- Front entrance

Year 9 pupils- 8:45-9:00am arrival- Front entrance

Year 10 pupils- 9:00-9:15am arrival- Front entrance.

Year 11 pupils- 9:00am arrival- Enter via the back gates to the Technology Block

Year 12 pupils- 9:00-9:15am arrival- Front entrance.

Year 13/14 pupils- 9:00am-9:15am arrival- Enter via the back gates to the door at Mr McClelland's room.

All pupils will have their temperatures checked on arrival and will sanitise their hands. I would remind parents to ensure pupils have their own personal sanitiser bottle for use during the day. Unfortunately, at this time, cars will not be allowed into the car park.

Uniform and Equipment

Pupils will wear their full school uniform. On days when pupils have PE, they can wear a tracksuit (no football colours) to school with their PE kit underneath. Pupils should bring their own school bag and equipment that they need for the full school day as equipment as it will not be possible to share. All pupils should have pens, pencils, sharpener, rubber, ruler, calculator so they are well equipped for school.

Break and Lunch

There will be no canteen facilities available at break time. Pupils should bring their own healthy break. For the first term, pupils will eat their break in classrooms, supervised by staff. At lunch, only those pupils entitled to free school meals will be able to access food from the canteen. Pupils will complete a menu every Friday for the following week. The menu will be reduced for the first term with a cold food grab bag system in place. Lunch will be delivered to pupils by Classroom Assistants. Year 13 and 14 pupils will not be permitted to leave the school premises at lunch time and should therefore bring a packed lunch to school if they are not entitled to free school meals.

Face coverings

In Edmund Rice College, it is strongly recommended that pupils wear a face covering or mask, in order to keep our entire school community safe.

Hygiene

Regular and thorough attention to hygiene is essential to deter the spread of the virus. Every bubble will have a designated toilet and pupils should regularly wash their hands. The importance of good respiratory hygiene has been discussed with all pupils during their period of induction, in particular the practice of "catch it, bin it, kill it". Please reemphasise this with your child before Monday.

Google Classroom

Homework will be set for our pupils using Google Classroom. Pupils have been trained on this during induction and pupils will have their own individual online classroom for each subject. Next week, we will send out a parental training video on Google Classroom so that parents can monitor the work of their children. It is not possible to collect and mark books at present. Teachers will provide feedback via Google Classroom in the interim.

Pupil Sickness

Should a pupil appear unwell (especially if they display symptoms of COVID), please do not send them to school. Symptoms include a high temperature, a new continuous cough or the loss or change in your normal sense of smell. If anyone becomes unwell in school with these symptoms, they will be sent home and parents will be advised to follow PHA guidelines. If a pupil arrives to school with a high temperature, they will be sent home after consultation with parents.

End of School Day

At 2:45pm, all pupils and teachers will return to their pastoral bubbles for de-registration. Groups will be called via the tannoy and email system when it is time to leave the school

premises. Walkers and pupils getting a lift will be called from 2:50pm so that leaving from the school is staggered. Buses will be called as normal.

Breakfast Club/After school activities

Unfortunately, at this time, it is not possible to offer our breakfast club or extracurricular activities. We will make these services available again when it is safe to do so.

I look forward to welcoming all our pupils back to Edmund Rice College on a full time basis. Thank you for all your ongoing co-operation and support.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'P Berne', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

P Berne
Acting Principal