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Acting Principal Mr Paul Berne | BA Hons | PGCE

31st March 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well. We were delighted to be able to welcome our Year 12-14 pupils back to Edmund Rice College for face-to-face teaching prior to the Easter break. After Easter, we are very excited to welcome back all pupils to Edmund Rice College. This letter outlines what restart will look like for our pupils.

School Return

Pupils should arrive to school in full school uniform on Tuesday 13th April 2021. **Pupils are not required in school on Monday 12th April** as this is a Staff Development Day, as per the school calendar. In order to avoid congestion at the school entrances to the building, pupils should stick strictly to the following staggered times of arrival:

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

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

Year 10 pupils- 8:45am- 9:00am 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.

They should go straight to the form classroom that was assigned to them at the start of the year. The focus for school return will be on allowing all our pupils to reconnect socially with their friends and with staff. We will continue to build upon our positive relationships and help our pupils engage with their learning as they return to the school environment. We will support our students in every way we can to help ease this transition back to Edmund Rice College.

With this in mind, all pupils will be provided with increased form class time on their first morning back, allowing them the time and space to sit with their peers and reconnect.

All pupils will complete a wellbeing audit during the course of the week which will enable our pastoral teams to understand any difficulties encountered during lockdown, so that we can provide help and support. I want to reassure all our pupils that our ethos of 'Care' will be very much to the forefront as we welcome you back through the doors of ERC. Our Year Heads and Pastoral Teams will be readily available, to listen and provide any additional help and advice needed throughout the course of the pupils' return to support their wellbeing and mental health.

Face Coverings

It is now compulsory for all post primary school pupils to wear face coverings, unless medically exempt, in classrooms and when moving about the school. We would ask that all pupils come to school equipped with a face covering every day. We will provide regular air breaks for our pupils as we recognise how difficult it can be to wear a face covering for an extended period. We appreciate all your support in this matter to help keep our entire school community safe. This will not last forever!

We are very much looking forward to welcoming our pupils back on Tuesday 13th April. We have missed their laughter, their stories and their 'craic'. I can't wait to be standing at the front door greeting and welcoming everyone back to Edmund Rice College.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very healthy, happy and safe Easter.

Take care and God Bless,

Yours sincerely,

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

P Berne
Acting Principal