



Portadown College

Principal: Gillian R Gibb, BA(Hons), PGCE, MSc, PQH(NI)

14 August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I trust you and your family have experienced a relaxing summer. As you may be aware from media reports, the Department of Education issued revised guidance to schools on 13 August 2020 in respect of the reopening of schools in August 2020.

At the request of the Department of Education, please see attached a Letter to Parents and Carers from the Minister of Education (13 August 2020) and an Education Restart Leaflet.

Further to my correspondence of 3 July, I now wish to update you with some general information regarding the return to College of our students at the start of the new academic year. More detailed guidance will be issued week beginning 17 August.

Please note the key dates below:

Tuesday 18 August: Year 12 and Year 14 Information Sessions (please refer to letter of 3 July 2020) College uniform must be worn and students are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings during these sessions.

Monday 24 and Tuesday 25 August: phased return for Year 12 and Year 14:

Monday 24 August

Year 12 – 12A, 12B, 12C, 12D

Year 12 enter via main College doors.

Year 14 – 14A, 14B, 14C, 14D, 14E

Year 14 enter via Sixth Form doors.

Tuesday 25 August:

Year 12 – 12E, 12F, 12G, 12H, 12I

Year 12 enter via main College doors.

Year 14 – 14F, 14G, 14H, 14I, 14J

Year 14 enter via Sixth Form doors.

Please note that all students are required to bring a snack for break and packed lunch on Monday 24 and Tuesday 25 August as there is no canteen service on both dates. As the water dispensers will not be in use, students may wish to bring their own bottled water. In the current circumstances, Year 13 and Year 14 are not permitted to leave school at lunchtime until further notice.

Thursday 27 August: new Year 11 Induction (please refer to letter of 3 July 2020 for details).

Friday 28 August: Year 13 Induction (details to be communicated to students via Google classroom).

Please note that the existing Year 12 Portadown College Google Classroom has been renamed Year 13 Portadown College 2020-21 Google Classroom.

Tuesday 1 September: All students in school every day from Tuesday 1 September.

Please note:

Full College uniform must be worn.

There will be no timetabled Games/non-examination PE classes until mid-September at the earliest. Students and parents/carers will be notified one week in advance of the first class. Until further notice, students will be required to wear College PE kit to school and throughout the day on which they have PE/Games. This measure is to negate the need for students using communal changing rooms. Please refer to the Parental Information College uniform list for details of the required PE kit*.

*(Boys who do not have school track suit bottoms are permitted to wear plain dark tracksuit bottoms. Shorts should not be worn during timetabled classes outside of PE/Games).

*Girls are required to wear plain black leggings or regulation Kukri black/sky blue bottoms (with PC crest). Skorts must not be worn during the school day outside of PE/Games classes.

Sixth Formers may leave school at lunchtime on Wednesdays until the commencement of Wednesday afternoon Games.

Students in Year 12 are permitted to leave school at lunchtime on Thursdays until the commencement of Thursday Afternoon Games.

Private study facilities will be provided for Sixth Form and Year 12 students who do not have transport home and/or wish to remain in College until the end of the school day on these respective games afternoons.

Examination PE classes will be timetabled with effect Monday 24 August. The PE Department will inform GCSE, AS and A2 PE students of arrangements for practical classes, including the requirement to wear College PE kit to school on days scheduled for practical activities.

Sincere thanks for your goodwill and support as we prepare to welcome our young people back to College life.

Yours faithfully

Gillian R Gibb

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Principal