

# Shimna Integrated College



**Education Restart**

Shimna Integrated College staff and governors are delighted to welcome back all our students. We are committed to a safe and healthy restart, which will return us all to Integration and academic achievement, with students, as always, as the central focus of our planning. We are very proud of our students achievement during lockdown, including all the remote learning achieved, caring for family members, volunteering in the community, looking after themselves and just surviving!

We are also hugely grateful for the support of parents/guardians throughout. We have had to send out lengthy, detailed letters, sometimes with guidance which then had to be changed as more guidance from the Department of Education was issued. Thank you very much for your attention to all our new arrangements, and for supporting your daughter(s)/son(s) in being fully prepared for the restart.

Now we need everyone's full commitment to making all the new arrangements work. If we all pull together, we can keep ourselves and each other safe, and keep everyone in our home and family safe. We can also aim to ensure that we don't have to return to lockdown with the disruption lockdown causes to educational opportunity and to all our relationships.



## Getting Here and Getting Home

1. Please walk or cycle to school if possible.
2. If you travel to school by bus, you **MUST** wear a mask. The best plan is to have a **reusable mask** for the journey in and another for the journey home. Don't forget to wash them every evening. All staff and students must wear a mask when moving about the school and a mask is strongly recommended in the classroom, particularly for years 11-14, who are with different groups of students in every class. Talk to your parent(s)/guardian(s) if there is a medical reason you cannot wear a mask.
3. If you arrive by car, you **MUST** be left off and collected in Donard Park and walk in via the back gate, unless you have a temporary or permanent mobility problem.

## Arriving at School

1. When you arrive, you need to come in through either the Sports Hall or the Canteen, where you will find a sanitiser station.
2. You should then go immediately to your first period classroom via the one-way system. We will not be holding registration class, and the roll will be marked in your first lesson or in study.
3. You should go straight into the classroom and sit down.

At the end of the school day, we will stagger the finishing time to avoid crowding in the corridors and at the exits.

## Preparing for School

1. You will need to wear a mask at all times while in school. Get yourself at least two masks that you feel reasonably comfortable in – nobody is completely comfortable in a mask.
2. Please pack your bag carefully. You will not be able to borrow or share, so you need all your own equipment with you: pens; pencils; rubber; ruler; sharpener; colours; maths equipment. Don't forget to bring a charger and anything else you used to borrow!;
3. Wear your full Shimna uniform, which is easily washed and dried. On days on which you have PE or Sport Studies practical, you should wear your Shimna PE kit, with tracksuit bottoms, as we will not be using the changing rooms.
4. Plan ahead to wear thermal underwear when the weather gets colder. Windows will be open for better ventilation.
5. The water fountains can't be used, so remember to fill your water bottle at home.
6. Always have tissues with you for Catch It, Bin It, Kill It.
7. There is hand sanitiser in every classroom, but it is a good idea to have a supply of your own. Use a small, refillable bottle and refill from a big bottle at home. We need to minimise single use plastic;
8. Get yourself at least two masks you like the look of and which feel reasonably comfortable. You **MUST** wear a mask on a school bus and when you are in school.

## **Getting About the School**

1. Teachers are in their usual classroom, and students will move safely round the school via a one-way system. It is essential that all students and staff use the one-way system at all times, EXCEPT in a fire evacuation.
2. There are now three classrooms in the Croí, each with its own door.
3. The language corridors can be very crowded, and a waiting area for each is in place. Please access business studies via the business studies office.

## **Breaktime**

1. There will be no canteen service at break. You should bring your own snack and drink.
2. Break time will be spent in the classroom you are in before break, or you may go straight outside via the one-way system. You will not be able to spend time in the corridor.
3. Breaktimes will be staggered for different year groups to avoid crowding at the toilets.
4. Access to the toilet areas will be supervised.

## **Lunchtime**

1. New lunchtime arrangements are being made, and until they are in place, please bring a packed lunch every day. A packed lunch will be provided if you are entitled to a free school meal.
2. Once a week, each year group on rota, will eat lunch in a classroom to avoid crowding in the canteen.
3. Don't forget to fill your water bottle at home. We can't use our water fountains.
4. Unfortunately, it is not possible for students to leave at lunchtime and return to school. This will be disappointing for 6<sup>th</sup> form, but we must avoid infection being brought into the school.
5. We have a new cashless payment system in the canteen which operates for Free School Meals and for students paying for their lunch.

## **Toilets**

1. Toilets will be open at breaktime and supervised during all four lunchbreaks, between 12.00 and 2.00pm.
2. There will be a distanced queuing system and numbers entering the toilet area at any one time will be controlled.
3. The toilets will be cleaned regularly throughout this period.
4. Access to toilets outside this time will be strictly for emergencies only.

## **Cleaning**

1. Three of our premises staff are now on duty throughout the school day.
2. We have expanded our afterschool cleaning team.
3. There are cleaning materials in every room for wipedown, including special wipes for keyboards.
4. We have a fogging machine for disinfecting a whole room.

## **First Aid and Medication**

1. Go carefully at all times and be good to each other. The best first aid is not to get hurt in the first place. If you have a minor injury, our first aiders will need to treat you remotely by advising you how to clean the wound and apply the plaster yourself.
2. Do everything to make sure serious injury doesn't happen, but our first aid team have access to PPE to look after you if something serious does happen.
3. If you take medication during the school day, you should store your medication as usual in Danella's office. She will explain to you how you to get your medication when you need it.
4. If you develop COVID-19 symptoms during the school day, your parents/guardians will be informed at once, and we will have a safe place ready for you to wait in. You will not be left alone.

## **Bubbles?**

At post-primary school, students need to move to different classrooms for subjects such as technology, home economics, science, ICT etc. In order to limit contacts as much as possible, years 8-10 will be taught in their form class for all their subjects, except their second language. Each year group will have a separate lunch sitting.

In years 11-14, students need to be in a mixture of different class groups in order to study all their chosen subjects for GCSE. For this reason, it is essential that students wear a mask at all times.

6<sup>th</sup> form also need to mix in order to study their A level subjects, and to work together in Study. Unfortunately, the 6<sup>th</sup> form common room is an unventilated space, and can't be used. Arrangements are in place for 6<sup>th</sup> form Study and lunchtime. 6<sup>th</sup> form students must wear a mask in class and in Study.

## **Shared Equipment**

1. Come fully equipped for learning, don't lend or share and don't ask to borrow or share.
2. Equipment such as computers, which have to be used by different students, need to be wiped down between users, and we would ask for your help and cooperation with the wiping.

## **Support**

1. Our school counsellor, Vicki is available to all students, and information about making an appointment is on our Shimna website. You can also make an appointment by emailing Danella at [dgoodman939@c2kni.net](mailto:dgoodman939@c2kni.net)
2. If you need help with anything during the school day, speak to the classroom assistant who works with your class, or to your subject teacher.
3. You can also contact your form teacher or subject teachers using googleclassroom or your school email account.
4. Our Shimna website has a collection of contacts for helplines, apps and organisations offering help with a wide range of issues. Check them out under the 20/21 button.

## Showing Symptoms

If you show symptoms which may be COVID-19 during the school day, this is what will happen.

1. Your teacher or classroom assistant will alert our office staff.
2. Your teacher will ask you to wait at the classroom door to be collected by a staff member. The staff member will be wearing PPE. Don't be startled!
3. You and the staff member will make your way to the special waiting area and make yourselves comfortable.
4. Our office staff will have contacted your parent(s)/guardian(s) to collect you and to arrange for you to have a test.
5. When you are collected, the staff member will make sure you have a copy of the leaflet to let you and your family know what to do next.
6. You will need to self-isolate until a negative test is confirmed, and your teachers will support you with your schoolwork so that you don't fall behind.
7. If your test is positive for COVID-19, you and your family will follow the advice of the Test, Trace and Protect agency.

## Don't Come to School If

### A PARENTS QUICK GUIDE TO CORONAVIRUS RELATED ABSENCES

What to do if ....	Action needed	Return to school when ....
My child has Coronavirus symptoms.	<b>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL</b> Contact school daily Self-isolate Get a test Inform school immediately about test result	The test comes back negative and they are fever free for 48 hours.
My child tests positive for Coronavirus.	<b>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL</b> Inform the school immediately about the test result Contact school daily Self-isolate for at least 10 days	They can return to school after 10 days even if they have a cough or loss of taste or smell/ taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks once infection is gone. If they continue to have a high temperature they should stay at home.
Somebody in my household has Coronavirus symptoms.	<b>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL for 14 days</b> Contact school daily Household member to get a test Inform the school immediately about the test result	Stay at home for 14 days after the first person in your home started having symptoms.
Somebody in my household has tested positive with Coronavirus.	<b>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL</b> Inform the school immediately about the test result Contact school daily	The child has completed 14 days of self-isolation.
The 'Track and Trace' scheme has identified my child as a close contact of somebody with symptoms of confirmed Coronavirus.	<b>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL</b> Contact school daily Self-isolate for 14 days	The child has completed 14 days of self-isolation.
My child has travelled abroad and has to self-isolate as part of the quarantine process.	<b>Returning from a destination where quarantine is needed</b> <b>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL</b> Contact school daily Self-isolate for 14 days Provide information to the school as per attendance policy	When the quarantine period of 14 days has been completed.
Staff or pupil in my child's bubble have tested positive	<b>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL</b> Inform the school Everyone in the bubble must self-isolate and take a test.	When a negative test is confirmed or the necessary isolation period has been completed.

## Reminders

1. COVID-19 is not going to disappear, and, until everyone has had both their vaccinations, we will need to get used to all our new arrangements.
2. You will find notices all around the school reminding all of us to stick to the arrangements.
3. Don't be afraid to remind each other and don't be offended if someone reminds you;
4. **All of us need to assume we are asymptomatic carriers – in other words, any one of us could be a carrier and not know it– and to do everything in our power to make sure we don't infect anyone else.**

## Integration

Integration has a whole new dimension now. Some of us have had a relaxing time during lockdown, and some of us have been very stressed. Some of us got plenty of work done, and some of us are worried about being behind with our work. Some of us feel completely fit and healthy, and some have health worries. For some of us everyone at home is fit and healthy, and some have worries about the health of a family member.

**Be aware of all these different experiences, and stick to our one school rule, which is to treat others as you would wish to be treated yourself, Keep yourself and each other safe.**

