



# Moyle Park College

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## **Thursday 15th Oct 2020**

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support to date in safely reopening our school. It has been an incredibly challenging few months and we are grateful for the solidarity by all members of the community. We would like to commend the students for their excellent behaviour since the start of term and for their compliance with the Covid -19 Response Plan and the safety protocols and procedures in place.

We will continue to face challenges and ask each of you to work with us to ensure that staff and students are safeguarded. Please exercise caution if your son presents with any of the Covid-19 symptoms and ensure that he is kept at home and a GP is consulted. Please work with us and ensure that the HSE guidelines re: social distancing, respiratory etiquette and social distancing are followed. In the event of a positive case being identified in your son's class, the HSE will contact the school and advise accordingly. Please continue to support us in our efforts and ensure that your son has at least 5 masks in his bag each week.

Our First Years have shown incredible resilience and have transitioned well from Primary School. We hope to facilitate a virtual information evening to welcome you all. Details to be confirmed shortly.

**Student Engagement Report:** In the absence of Parent Information Evenings and to encourage and endorse student engagement, we are currently developing a Student Engagement Report which will be released the week of the 19th of October. Assessments will be conducted and updates posted by the teachers on

student progress. Concerns have been raised about the level of engagement in some classes and we hope that together, we can encourage the boys to work hard and engage in their work.

We have developed a School App entitled Moyle Park College which can be downloaded now through the various forums. The aim of the App is to update the school community on activities and events throughout the school year. The App contains a link to VSWare and the school calendar which should make it easier for parents to monitor student progress, behaviour and engagement and keep up to date with school events.

**Parents Teacher Student Meetings:**

Parent Teacher Student meetings are on hold at present until further guidance is available from the Department of Education. We will update you when information is available.

**Lockers:**

We will continue to restrict access to lockers due to the health and safety risk posed. No fee will be charged for the locker next year and the 'Back to school pack' will be reduced to reflect this. All 6<sup>th</sup> years who have paid the fee for the full 'Back to school Pack' will have the locker fee refunded before the end of the year.

**Marist Week Celebrations:**

We look forward to celebrating Marist Week from the 19<sup>th</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> October. The week will see lots of events and activities, such as a Photography Competition, Reflections, Prayer Service, Non-uniform day on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October in aid of Aware and Stewarts' Hospital.

Concerns have been raised by members of the local community about students gathering in the village outside of the Gala store. Please encourage your son to exercise caution and adhere to the HSE guidelines re: social distancing when travelling to and from school.

**Please see the guidelines for parents below in the event of further closures.**

**Yours sincerely,**

Niamh Cahalane  
Principal  
Moyle Park College

### **Guidelines for Parents in the event of further school closures:**

We are attempting to develop new norms and raise expectations re: student engagement with remote learning. To assist students in working independently in the event of further school closures, we have developed a set of guidelines for staff, students and parents.

We ask you to work with us to ensure that learning continues. Students are asked to take more responsibility for their learning and engage remotely with their teachers. We have focused on the development of skills in Google Classroom and student access to E- books since we returned and we hope that by now, all students are competent in accessing, uploading and completing assignments online.

To support your son with online learning, we ask that you set up the following;

- Establish a good routine by setting a start time and setting up a work space for your son. Set realistic goals and expectations.
- Teachers may be facilitating live classes as per their timetable (Q & A, etc) Please encourage your son to attend and engage remotely with their teachers. Students are required to present themselves appropriately with the camera on for the duration of the live feed.
- Teachers will schedule work daily for students as per the allocation of classes on their timetable. Work will be assigned early each day, so please ensure that your son is up and ready to complete the assignments and classwork.
- Remove distractions and where possible, allow the student to work in a quiet area.
- Gmail will be used to communicate with teachers, students and parents and we use Google Classroom as our online learning platform.
- Students will be using Google Classroom daily to complete assignments, classwork and homework.
- Parents are asked to make themselves aware of Google Classroom to support their son's learning. Please see the notes on the use of Google Classroom on the school App on the notification tab.

- Staff are available through email, so please encourage your son to email their teacher/s if they are concerned about work or having difficulty completing assignments. Please ensure that all communications are confined to normal school hours.