

Coláiste na hInse



Aimsigh do Réalt Eolais

12th February 2021

Dear parents/Guardians,

Welcome to our 6th and final Friday briefing of the term.

1. As of 2PM today there have been no further updates in relation to the state examinations from the Department of Education and Skills. Talks are ongoing between education partners, to find a fair and equitable solution for 6th and 3rd year students. The big issue this year is that unlike last year, schools do not have as much exam data on students, students have had much less time in class and students are not as far on with project work etc. This is making things much more difficult no matter which model is chosen i.e. calculated grades of written exams. Teachers unions are trying to thrash out a fair deal for their students, whom they care about and want to see rewarded fairly and equitably for their work. Again, we will keep you informed as soon as we get any more information.
2. The school is reopening for our students in An Cuan on Monday 22nd February. We are really looking forward to meeting you then.
3. We had 152 responses to our parent/guardian survey – thank you to all who responded.
 - In general, most parents felt that their child was engaging well or very well with remote teaching and learning (95%). The biggest barrier to learning in this way was difficulty concentrating in front of a screen for prolonged periods.
 - In terms of homework 60% felt that their son/daughter was getting just about enough homework, 28% felt too much and 12% felt too little. Our response to this is that teachers will continue to give homework, but as we have suggested allowing students time to do activities/homework as part of the final third of the online lesson.
 - Over 70% felt that sos and lón should be extended daily to allow students to have meals and take some exercise. In response to this we will extend only lón and by 5 minutes each side so that the same classes are not shortened each day. (Lón will now be from 13.02-13.47).
 - Our final question asked you to suggest areas for improvement. We were grateful for all the positive comments. There were also several very good suggestions for improvement, that we will be working on for next term.
4. We will be hosting two online options nights directly after mid-term. Both nights will be recorded so that parents and students can view them at a time that suits them. Our 3rd year/IB night will go live on 24th February followed by a live question and answer session for students the following morning on TEAMS. Our incoming 1st year night will go live on 25th February. Parents and guardians of incoming 1st years with questions can email or phone the school with any questions. The purpose of these nights is to help students make good decisions about programme and subject choices. Thank you to all the subject departments for putting together information clips on each subject on offer in the school.
5. Students will then be given one week to make choices about the programmes they wish to follow (IB, leaving certificate established or LCA) and the subjects they wish to choose. It is vital that these forms come in on time as they are needed for staff recruitment and timetable planning purposes.
6. Entrance examinations for incoming 1st years will be held the first Saturday after full school reopening. Currently we have 198 students who have accepted a place for next year.
7. Finally, I would like to commend all our parents, guardians, staff and of course daltaí. You certainly showed plenty of dearfachas, during this term. Well-done to all. I hope you all enjoy some well-earned rest, exercise and fresh air.

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Eilis Flood