

Drumshanbo Vocational School

Telephone: Office 071 – 9641085 **Website:** www.dvs.ie **email:** info@dvs.ie

Principal:
Mr. Martin Fallon B.Sc., M.Ed.

email: martinfallon@msletb.ie



Deputy Principal:
Mr. Sean Wynne M.I., M.A.

Seanwynne@msletb.ie

August 18th 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

We hope that you are well and have had an enjoyable summer despite all of the restrictions and challenges that we all have due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Hopefully our students are looking forward to returning to school after their prolonged absence. We know that we are all looking forward to having them back and have been actively planning, in line with DES guidelines for full school re-opening in September. Re-opening a school during a pandemic presents many challenges but we want to assure you that management and staff of DVS will do everything possible and practical to minimise the risk to the health of our students, our school community and the wider community.

In order for our re-opening to be successful and in order to remain open, we will need your assistance as follows:

1. If your child or any member of the immediate household has returned from any of the destinations that are not on the “Green List” for travel, please ensure that they isolate for 14 days before returning to school.
2. Do not send your child to school if they display any of the symptoms of Covid-19 virus. Please check before they leave each morning.
3. Remind your child of the importance of regular hand washing, use of sanitisers in school and social distancing
4. Provide a re-useable face mask every day. Exceptions can be made in very limited circumstances – contact the school.
5. Ensure that your child removes the school uniform on return from school and that it’s washed regularly and even more frequently than normal.
6. Students will not have access to lockers until further notice. This means that they will need to be very organised by bringing only the necessary books each day. For the first few weeks teachers will limit the use of school books in the

classroom. We hope to re-introduce the use of lockers within weeks, once we are satisfied that congregations of students can be controlled.

7. A decision regarding some students being allowed leave school grounds at break has yet to be made. Until further notice, students will not be allowed leave school grounds at break time.
8. It will not be possible for visitors or parents/guardians to enter the school without prior appointment. Arrangements will be made for parents to drop off any forgotten belongings, books, lunches etc.

We have a longer than normal phased re-opening schedule in order to facilitate explaining all the new procedures to students and to allow for the delivery of the necessary PPE.

Our re-opening schedule for students is as follows:

Friday 28th August: 12 – 2pm – Guidance Counsellor available to meet any 5th Year students still unsure about subject choice.

Monday 31st August, 9am – 1pm: First Years only (No books or school bags necessary but bring a lunch)

Tuesday 1st September, 9am – 1pm: Third Year & Sixth Year only. (Bring lunch)

Wednesday 2nd September, 9am – 1pm: Second Years & Fifth Years only (Bring lunch)

Thursday 3rd September: First Years only. Full day (Bring lunch)

Friday 4th September: All students (except LCA) Normal hours – 9am – 2pm.

Monday 7th September: All students. Full timetable.

Reminder : Students to wear face masks on return

Please note that any changes to this schedule due to factors outside of our control will be notified to you by text.

All of the restrictions are going to affect all aspects of school life and all school policies are going to be impacted on while this virus remains a threat – discipline policy, extra-curricular activities, phone policy, parent-teacher meetings etc. We will update you and the students on the changes in the coming weeks. Please check regularly for updates on this web-site.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Fallon

Sean Wynne