

# Drumshanbo Vocational School

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*Principal:*

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January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2021

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

Week 2 of lockdown over and I firstly want to commend our students on their excellent engagement with the on-line teaching and learning to date. All of our Teachers and SNAs are reporting very high or full attendance for most classes.

I don't have any further updates for you this week but I just want to bring the following to your attention:

## **Attendance monitoring**

If you are checking attendance yourselves on VSware, you need to be aware that attendance is often not updated until the end of the school day or the following day. This is because attendance is automatically taken on TEAMS when students log on or submit assigned work. Teachers then update VSware when they get a chance. If students need to be absent for any reason, you can submit absence notifications in the usual way on the Vsware app or on the desktop version. (See the guide at below on this web-site)

## **Transition Year**

We are currently devising the programme for Transition Year to commence in August this year. This programme will comprise the core subjects English, Irish & Maths in addition to sampling of the Leaving Cert subject options as well as modules in areas outside the curriculum. These areas of interest will depend largely on the students interests and I have been carrying out surveys on them for the past week. There will be a work experience module and a trip abroad if there is sufficient interest and if the restrictions are lifted.

If you have any ideas or suggestions you would like to make, I would be pleased to hear from you.

## **Enrolment**

We are now accepting enrolments to First Year 2021/22. Some relevant information and Enrolment Application Forms can be downloaded from this web-site. You can also contact the school for an Information pack. (Tel 071 9641085 or e mail School Secretary at [bernimcloughlin@msletb.ie](mailto:bernimcloughlin@msletb.ie) )

### **Mock Exams**

We plan to make a decision on whether we will have mock exams or not at the next meeting of our Pastoral Care Team on Wednesday. We have received the views of the Leaving Cert students.

### **PE classes**

Like all of the practical classes, it is very challenging teaching PE on-line. So far there is very positive engagement with the exercises being set by Ms Travers and being tracked using the *Strava* app. Ms Travers has asked me to remind students to make sure to set privacy settings as she has instructed. If you have any queries you can contact her at [bredatravers@msletb.ie](mailto:bredatravers@msletb.ie)

### **First Year Subject Rotation**

First Years should now have commenced in the third rotation of options subjects. Hopefully we can get back to school before too long so that they can get the necessary practical experience with woodwork, metalwork, home economics and music. In the meantime, they will be focusing mostly on theory.

I hope you and all of our students have a relaxing weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Fallon