



September 12th 2020

Re: Second Years permission to leave school grounds at main lunch break

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

After consideration of all of the issues we have decided to allow second year students to leave school for lunch break if that is the wish of their parents/guardians. All factors were taken into consideration in making this decision, including:

- The recent on-line survey of our second year parents/guardians which showed approx. 70% in favour of allowing second year students have the choice
- Written and phone requests from parents to allow the choice
- A commitment to the BOM to carry out a review as soon as possible to take into account the views of parents and the students themselves
- The shortage of space on school grounds even with the staggered breaks
- A desire to maintain normality in so far as possible for our students
- The approval of the main shops in the town
- Very positive reports to date from local businesses on the behaviour of our students currently allowed out at break time
- A desire to do what we can to protect the local community – in this regard we have staggered breaks and students must comply with all Covid-19 requirements when visiting local shops

In making this decision, we acknowledge that a significant number of parents/guardians do not approve of such a move. However, this is a choice. Students have the option of remaining on school grounds and we expect that a substantial number will choose to do so most days of the week. Students have the option to have their lunch in the Mayflower. They can either bring their own or purchase hot food there. In the coming weeks we will organise whatever lunch-time activities we can within the guidelines so that hopefully remaining on school grounds will be an attractive option. We are installing more basketball hoops and plan to re-open the astro-turf shortly. Shelters have been ordered and should be installed by early October.

If you wish your second year son/daughter to have the choice of leaving school grounds at main break time, please sign the ETB indemnity form and return to the school.

Yours sincerely

Martin Fallon / Sean Wynne