

# Drumshanbo Vocational School

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*Principal:*

**Mr. Martin Fallon** B.Sc., M.Ed.

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*Deputy Principal:*

**Mr. Sean Wynne** M.I., M.A.

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Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Firstly I hope you are all well and coping in these extraordinary times. This is an update on some changes and on dates to note on your calendar.

## Changes due to Covid

We are following all DES/HSE guidelines and I want to bring to your attention how these guidelines impact on day to day arrangements for your children and on your interaction with the school:

1. All staff and students wear masks wherever a minimum of a 2M distance cannot be maintained. There are exceptions for those with certified medical / other conditions.
2. Entry to school is limited to staff and students except by appointment only. Parents calling to collect children for urgent reasons or to drop off forgotten items must wait at the front door and ring the bell
3. More double classes for students. This is not ideal in many subjects but is recommended in order to limit movement around the school.
4. Staggered breaks – The exam years and other years have breaks at different times. Students other than First Years are allowed leave school grounds at break time with permission of their parents provided they comply with the social distancing / mask wearing in the shops. This will be reviewed regularly.
5. Communicating with home re behaviour, homework etc : We would normally be using the “Journal for Learning” for this. Now we are using VSware to record those items. At the moment parents only have access to timetables and subject options on VSware but we plan to open up the behaviour tab shortly.
6. Notes re absences etc. Parents should still record absence notes in the child’s Journal. We are putting in place arrangements for the collection of these notes as Assembly cannot take place for the time being

All of these changes are in an effort to prevent the spread of the virus in our school and so that we can remain open. We need your help to do this by:

1. Not sending your child to school where they have any flu like symptoms including cough, fever, headache. Contact your GP for advice.
2. Remaining contactable by phone and collecting your child without delay when asked to do so
3. Reminding your child of hand hygiene, providing a clean mask every day and washing the uniform even more regularly than usual
4. Only calling to the school for essential reasons and when you do so, please park in the Mayflower grounds.

Thank you for your co-operation in all of these measures so far.

Obviously the health and safety of our students and staff is a priority. However, we have to be conscious of the mental well-being of our students as well. We must balance the need for all of these changes with trying to provide as normal an environment as possible. To this end we are arranging lunch time activities such as a soccer league and will encourage them to get involved in any extra-curricular activities that we can provide within the guidelines. We are continuing with PE classes and students are allowed wear PE gear on days they have PE. Wearing a mask all day is very uncomfortable for us all and especially for our students in Junior years where classes are bigger and where they have less opportunity to remove masks in class. Teachers will allow “mask breaks” wherever students can be kept 2M apart and where there are double classes students can be taken outside for a short break.

#### Dates for your calendar

Next Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September. School will finish at 12:40pm on that day to facilitate staff ICT training in preparation for possible necessity to teach on-line.

Monday September 28<sup>th</sup>. No school that day.

The full calendar for the year will be available next week on [www.dvs.ie](http://www.dvs.ie)

#### Book Rental

We will be in contact shortly and explain how to pay this on-line for those that wish to participate in the scheme.

#### E mail contacts

Principal :	<a href="mailto:martinfallon@msletb.ie">martinfallon@msletb.ie</a>
Deputy Principal:	<a href="mailto:seanwynne@msletb.ie">seanwynne@msletb.ie</a>
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Third Year Head:	<a href="mailto:yvonnetraynor@msletb.ie">yvonnetraynor@msletb.ie</a>
Fifth Year Head:	<a href="mailto:denisecoen@msletb.ie">denisecoen@msletb.ie</a>
Sixth Year Head:	<a href="mailto:margaretbeirne@msletb.ie">margaretbeirne@msletb.ie</a>
Learning Support :	<a href="mailto:lorrainemcloughlin@msletb.ie">lorrainemcloughlin@msletb.ie</a>
Guidance:	<a href="mailto:daithihughes@msletb.ie">daithihughes@msletb.ie</a>

Yours sincerely,

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Martin Fallon