



25th June 2020

Dear Parent/ Guardian and Student,

The last 13 weeks of your child's first year secondary school experience was a roller-coaster to say the least! The entire system rightly wrapped itself around the immediate issue of the Leaving Certificate students 2020 and tried to develop a system to meet their unique circumstances. First year is to be a year of 'transition' and engaging with the second level experience before going into the Junior Cycle full thrust in 2<sup>nd</sup> year (Note as per Junior Cycle only 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year work can be assessed for JC). In many ways you missed out on the full experience but I know your Réaltóir was very proud of how you managed yourselves and adapted to the new reality of distant/remote learning. I have no doubt you are as I am, looking forward to getting back in August and ready for a full 'normal' year.

### **Message from Réaltóir Noonan**

The end of your first year in The Coláiste has come, a year like no other, and one that hopefully reminded us all of how precious our homes and families are as life grinded to a halt and we were confined to our homes. I have been so impressed with your response to the challenge and changed circumstances and I truly believe we will all come out of this time stronger and more resilient. My word of the year!!

There are so many words that can describe your first year of secondary school; learning, fun, togetherness, team-work, and of course Bród, Uaillmhian and Dearfachas. All of these attributes and skills have been put to the forefront of your time spent working and learning at home. We have been challenged to come up with new ways to communicate, to show we care and to be there for one another. Solidarity and community have never been more important. You and your classmates learned new skills and developed old, baking, cooking, lots of gardening and painting, dogs were walked until they begged for no more, PE challenges were undertaken and lots more. You are amazing! stay safe and keep in touch. I also want to acknowledge the support of your parents/guardians who under massive stress and pressure also became involved in a new way with your learning. As a mother of three myself trying to do home learning and working was a major challenge and all parents take a bow and perhaps students you can

use your new baking skills to rustle up a cáca or even just a cupán tae to say míle buíochas.

### **Reports (Covid school closure period only)**

We issued reports to all first years that captured your child's engagement with the distant learning programme that was forced upon us. There is no doubt the distant learning was a challenge for everyone including teachers, school leaders, parents and students. We began by issuing work by e-mails and then after doing research with you as students and parents we realised it was too much. The strategic decision was made in our school planning document; Phase 2, issued after Easter to streamline the communications to homes, reduce it significantly for non-exam classes and use MS Teams where possible.

Many parents and students highlighted issues of internet access, the need to share devices and general trauma of coping with job losses etc at home and we were very sensitive to that. The weekly Newsletters were the main mode of updating you from a school leadership perspective as we tried to give you real-time information in what was a rapidly evolving situation.

The reports sent a number of weeks ago are for the **Covid school closure period only** and not end of year reports. As parents you had the Tuarascail Samhain (Halloween Reports), Christmas Reports , Caomhnóir meeting, First year Parent –Teacher meetings as well as the Cinn Lae as academic updates. The purpose of the Covid period reports which are were titled Summer Reports was to, in as positive way as possible, feedback to parents your child's level of engagement with distant learning. Hence unlike CNI reports these had generic comments as a means of maintaining as positive language as possible as we did not want to bring any trauma into houses that had enough to deal with already.

In these exceptional times our teachers supported our daltaí and the work of the Department of Education in the transformation of both the Junior Cycle report and the Leaving Certificate system. Schools were given full responsibility for accrediting the achievement of third year students and also required to up-skill, administrate and deliver the brand new Calculated Grade system for our sixth year daltaí which concluded on Friday 19th June. Consequentially to support the work for the state exams, we had to reform our reports for your child. This included:

- Providing a 'Covid-Period' report for your child, rather than end of year exams.
- Giving teachers the opportunity to use standard comments formulated by our Teaching and Learning Coiste. (Note: These were created to try to avoid any undue stress in homes and to be as positive as possible).
- Providing some guidance for students to complete as much of the assigned work over the summer, where that is feasible .

We are very proud of the term-based reports we provide each year as they always have customised detailed feedback. While these reports were more generic we will return to our personalised comments in the coming academic year.

### **Academic Year 2020-21**

We are hoping that the plan to return all students to school as normal can be realised however we are also planning for other possibilities around blended learning which we hope will not be required. At this stage of the year we always know return dates and Parent- Teacher meetings however this year we have deliberately left the latter off our calendar as we want to be flexible as possible around ensuring Parent Teacher meetings can happen. The return date for your child in 2nd year 2020-21 is the 31st August. The Calendar is also on the website for you to view @ [https://www.colaistenahinse.ie/images/pdfs/2020-2021/Calendar\\_20202021.pdf](https://www.colaistenahinse.ie/images/pdfs/2020-2021/Calendar_20202021.pdf).

### **Student Direct Costs**

As normal the 2nd year fees are due and the Board of Management met last week to review the Student Direct Costs and I am delighted they have been able to streamline and reduce where possible (please see attached which also shows the cost for last year as a comparison). The payment deadline for these costs is 19th August 2020.

Be assured the School Leadership Team are in a phase of planning to try and ensure the full return of school and I will keep you updated by text and via the website of any developments over the summer.

Le gach dea-ghuí,



Iníon Mc Carrick

## Student Direct Costs from Parents/Guardians for LMETB Schools for 2020/2021 (1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Years)

Subject to ratification by LMETB

All costs subject to annual review

LMETB School/College	2020-21	2019-20
<b>Details</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> yr- €218 2 <sup>nd</sup> yr-€218 3 <sup>rd</sup> yr-€218	<b>Estimated Cost</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> yr-€215 2 <sup>nd</sup> yr-€215 3 <sup>rd</sup> yr-€275
Book Rental (per year)	€100 (Increased by €20 due to large purchase of new Books)	€80
Exams (inc. Mock exams Eirquest)*	€15 (spreads cost of mocks over 3 years)	Was a separate larger charge in 3 <sup>rd</sup> year
Student Diary/Homework Journal	€8 (Reduced by €2)	€10
PPAI	€8	€8
Locker Rental/Replacement of Lock	NIL	NIL
Printing & Photocopying	€27 (Reduced by €13 due to new book purchase in JC)	€40
Text to Parents	NIL (Removed due to Way2pay text system giving free text)	€2
Co-curricular and Extra- curricular Activities Including Dearfachas and Restorative Practice	€60 (Same costs as covered under Multiple headings last year) (Reduction of €15)	€75 Multiple headings last year inc. Extra and Co-Curricular, Lá Dearfachas and Dearfachas/Restorative Practice
Optional Subject Materials	Depending on the option subject taken costs may apply	Depending on the option subject taken costs may apply

<b>Total Contribution Collected for 2020/2021</b>	<b>€218 Total Cost over 3 Years €654 (reduction of €51)</b>	<b>Total cost over 3 years was €705 (2019-20)</b>
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**\*Note: Reference to Mock exams refers to Mock examination papers only and not any external corrections that may occur**

**\*In second and third year students are required to have past examinations papers and this is not covered by above**

**\*In some subjects workbooks are required where students must write in answers. These are not covered by above**

<b>Signed:</b>	<b>Principal</b>
<b>Date:</b>	