25/02/2022

Dear Parents/Guardians/Students,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. I hope you had a pleasant Mid Term. I would like to welcome all our students and staff back to St. Augustine's College on Monday the 28th of January.

As I am sure you are aware, the Government has accepted the recommendations of NPHET to remove the remaining restrictions relating to mask-wearing and physical distancing in schools. Schools can now resume normal school routines and normal teaching and learning activities.

Apart from the measures affecting teaching and learning, schools have discretion at local level to determine the timescale for introducing the changes outlined.

It is no longer a requirement for staff or students to wear a mask in school. Staff and students can continue to wear a mask if they wish to do so and a person's decision to wear or not wear a mask will be respected.

As the general requirement for physical distancing no longer applies, schools are no longer required to maintain these arrangements however the one-way system will stay in place as it is the most efficient way of moving over 900 people safely through the building.

The requirement to stay at home if you have symptoms remains, both for students and staff. One of the key messages to manage the risks of COVID-19 is to do everything practical to avoid the introduction of COVID-19 into the school.

With effect from Monday 28 February the wearing of face coverings/masks on school transport will no longer be mandatory but will continue to be advised.

Continued use of good infection prevention and control measures such as hand washing, respiratory hygiene and ventilation is advised. Hand sanitiser will continue to be available

We hope of course that everything will go smoothly but we must be vigilant to the fact that Covid is still in the community and continues to affect people's lives considerably if contracted.

I wish all the Friary students the very best for the rest of our academic year.

Kind regards,
Michael O'Sullivan