



# Pobalscoil Neasáin | Meas, Díograis & Dea-Chroí

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8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Good afternoon everyone,

Following our meetings this morning we want to share with you our plans for getting our students back to education. We believe that we are in a very good position to deliver teaching effectively online. A lot of work has been done with staff and students on using our online platform - Microsoft Teams - and the students have been using it regularly for homework. We surveyed our students about the use of Teams during the last Covid Check-in just before Christmas and the vast majority of them reported that they were very comfortable and confident using it. That gives us a very good starting point for the challenge we face in continuing their education as effectively as possible in the coming weeks.

Each student's Year Head will be emailing them today to explain to them exactly what will be happening, and how their timetables will operate. They will also give them clear instructions about the online protocols and etiquette that they are expected to follow. We will forward you a copy of that communication so that you are aware of what the students have been told.

We will be starting online teaching from **Monday next at 8:50 am.** Each student should ensure before next Monday that they have their username and password for Teams before then. They can contact their Year Head if they do not have those.

**Classes** will be as per timetable. Each teacher will meet their class face-to-face for the first class they have them next week and will explain in detail to the students how their classes will operate during the week. Some subsequent classes will be face-to-face with teachers, but during other times work will be assigned. It is not realistic or possible that all classes would be live online and there will be different formats at different times. It is also likely that there will also be times when teachers will be unavailable due to illness and we will do our best to inform you in advance when that happens.

**Attendance** will be recorded for classes so if your child is unwell or cannot be online due to other circumstances please submit an absence request on the VShare app as you would normally do. The responsibility for ensuring that students engage with the learning we will provide lies with you, the parents. The Year Head or an SNA will be in touch with you if teachers report that your child is not attending classes or is not submitting work, but that is something you should be constantly checking. It is essential that you take this responsibility seriously. Work missed by students who do not engage will not be redone in school when it opens, and a lack of engagement now will disadvantage them in the future.

Principal: Mr P. McKenna

Deputy Principals: Ms B. Ní Annracháin  
Ms K. Sadleir

We are very aware that students in exam classes, particularly 6th years, must be feeling very worried, and the changing plans in the last few days will not have helped their anxiety. It is a very tough time for them, and so much is totally outside their, and our, control. It may be helpful for them to remember that all students in the country are in the same position. They should try not to worry about project deadlines etc. - the State Exams Commission is very aware of and understanding of the difficulties they face. Any information we get regarding projects and orals will be passed on to them, and to you, as soon as we get it.

We have a lot of supports available for our students, as always. Their Year Head is available, Guidance and Wellbeing can be contacted at [guidance@psn.ie](mailto:guidance@psn.ie), and Celine is available at [chaplain@psn.ie](mailto:chaplain@psn.ie).

We all look forward to being safely back in school with our students. The best way to ensure that that happens as soon as possible is that we all do our utmost to lower the number of Covid infections. That means reminding our students to stay at home and to limit their contacts.

We will keep in touch with you and if you have any difficulties or questions please contact us at [office@psn.ie](mailto:office@psn.ie).

Take care and stay safe,

P. McKenna, B. Ní Annracháin and K. Sadlier.