



ST. LOUIS HIGH SCHOOL



29th June 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians of 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 6th Yr students,

I hope you and your family are enjoying a pleasant and relaxing summer. We look forward to welcoming back all our students and staff at the end of August/beginning of September to the new school year and we particularly look forward to welcoming all our new students.

Please find attached to this email (1) **book list**, (2) the **PROVISIONAL** schedule for the **opening week**, and (3) the **essential costs** for your daughter for next year. Also attached is (4) the Registration Form for **extra-curricular sporting activities** (optional). Though optional, we strongly encourage our students to participate in these activities in order to support physical and mental wellbeing. I also include information regarding planning in light of Covid-19. Please note that the school calendar is accessible via the school app. and will be reflected in the school website's calendar at a later date.

Attendance & Punctuality:

As you know we have a swipe-card system for keeping track of attendance and punctuality. Each student should still have their swipe card. If your daughter has misplaced her swipe card, it is **ESSENTIAL** that she contact the school between 3rd-11th August so that we can re-order a replacement card. A replacement card will cost €10. Every student **MUST HAVE** a swipe card. Students will register their attendance as they enter school and also if they have to leave early for an appointment, having followed the usual procedures of providing a parental/guardian note (either in the journal or on the school app) and checking out in the office.

Return to school:

Please take note of the provisional date your daughter is due back to school as indicated on the schedule for the opening week and also the important dates on the calendar relevant to her throughout the year. The calendar is available on the school app and will, later in the summer, be available on the school's website. Please also ensure that you are registered on the school app. It is essential that if you changed your phone number or email address, you inform the school as soon as possible. As detailed in the attached information, the school re-opens at the end of August. On their return, each year group will have an assembly and class meetings where students will be given their timetable, journal, and a health and safety, Covid-19-related training will be provided.

Payments for school expenses:

If you wish to call in to the school with your payment, the school office will be open from **9.00am – 1pm up until July 16th. The school building will be completely closed from the 19th July – 2nd August inclusive. The school will re-open on August 3rd with normal**

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Principal: Ms. Cliona McDonough Deputy Principal: Ms. Sinéad Thornton

office hours 9.00am – 4pm. You may pay by cash/cheque or laser/credit card and a receipt will be issued.

We ask, if possible, that you pay online using Easy Payments Plus. Log on to the school website www.stlouishighschool.ie and on the home page, click on the Easy-Payments-Plus icon and follow the directions on screen.

Covid 19 Safety Protocols:

We have recently been advised by the DES and HSE that we must continue with the health and safety arrangements we put in place last year to deal with the covid-19 pandemic moving forward ie the implementation of social distancing, mask wearing, ventilation and sanitising measures. We hope that further DES/HSE guidance will issue in early August. Please note that these arrangements may have to change depending on the situation at the time. There will be health and safety, Covid-19-related training for all students on their return to school. Return-to-school forms will more than likely be required to be completed in advance of returning to school. We will advise nearer the return dates.

Please also note, that in line with current Covid-19 health and safety guidelines, if your daughter is returning from holidays abroad, close to the time of the commencement of school, she must follow the HSE advice in relation to quarantining, isolating etc. and not be displaying any Covid-19 related symptoms before attending school. If these travel arrangements change, then we will advise. Please note that the following paragraph in our Code of Behaviour in light of the Covid-19 pandemic will still be relevant for next year. This is for the safety of all:

'In light of the COVID-19 Pandemic, students will be required to adhere to all regulations in school which will be put in place to ensure the health, wellbeing and safety of all operating in the building. This will include abiding by and respecting any social distancing guidelines, guidance on handwashing, use of sanitiser, use of PPE where appropriate, respiratory etiquette etc. Breaches of these regulations, which could place other people's health at risk, will be dealt with on an individual basis in consultation with school management. They will be viewed as a breach of the Code of Behaviour policy, and sanctions, where appropriate, may need to be applied.'

Online Learning and technology:

One of the areas we are particularly concerned about is that **all students** should have access to online learning at home. If we have to close for a while due to a surge in covid cases, we will be using the Microsoft Office 365 Teams online platform and the expectation is that all students will engage with online learning. This served us very well during the most recent closure, however, we know that there were some difficulties for some students accessing wifi and some were doing much of their work on their phones. In order to best support students to be in a position to continue with their work, and based on our experience, **students must have access to their own laptop/ipad and to wifi at home.** We ask you, as parents, to see what you can do to support your daughters in this regard. We do appreciate though, that in some cases that this is simply not possible. We will support your daughter as best we can in those circumstances.

Technology options:

We have investigated various payment options, and Wriggle, an IT company that supports our IT in school, is offering a 3-year payment plan for such a device and for online books. Please see the attached flyer for further details. Wriggle has set up a shop specific to St Louis High School. Please contact Ms Thornton for further details (sthornton@stlouishighschool.ie). However, there are other options - if you are a member of a Credit Union, they offer preferential rates for loans for these purposes. If your daughter already has a laptop or ipad, she could continue to use that and purchase her books online. Hanna's bookstore, Rathmines, is offering a 10% discount on St Louis High School purchases in this regard.

We have no idea at this point what next year will bring but we need to be fully prepared for blended learning in order to best support student learning. Next year, we will continue to allow students to use laptops or ipads in class for the purposes of accessing books and to do classwork, if this is their preference. However, these devices will only be allowed to be used during class time and with the permission of the teacher. If students are using laptops/ipads, they should ensure they have a sturdy case/bag to protect the device when carrying it to, from and around school. The device should also be insured. Please note that the book list will also be available on the school website (Parents' section). A change to last year's policy is that **students will not be allowed to use their phones as an alternative**. The use of mobile phones in class created too much of a distraction for some of our students and impacted negatively on their learning. Therefore, our mobile-phone policy will fully apply next year and we look forward to your support in the implementation of this policy for the benefit of all students and their learning.

For the first term at least, there will be no access to lockers, due to social distancing, keeping corridors free flowing and Covid-19 health and safety measures. This is one of the reasons why having access to books online from a laptop would be most beneficial for students. However, if you wish to continue with having the traditional books, please do so, but **books will need to be kept at home**. Students should only bring copies in for class along with either a laptop or ipad/tablet. Again I reiterate, **MOBILE PHONES WILL NOT BE PERMITTED FOR USE IN CLASS**.

Voluntary Contribution:

The requested Voluntary Contribution for 2021/2022 is €350 per student (€500 for sisters) and this may be paid by cash, cheque, post dated cheques, direct debit or laser/credit card or online through Easy Payments Plus. The Voluntary Contribution is a necessary source of income for the school as the grant from the Dept of Education falls short of the budget required to run the school. Your support enables us to update and improve our facilities for the benefit of your daughters.

Thank you:

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all parents who have supported the school in so many ways during the past year. It has been an extremely challenging and intense year. However, your support throughout has helped us enormously in ensuring the safety of all who operate in the building. Mile buíochas. Your attendance at various meetings (online) has been very important for your daughters and your support for the different fundraising activities and the Voluntary Contribution Scheme means that we can continue to upgrade the school facilities.

I would especially like to thank the Parents' Council members who have supported the school during this year. I would also like to thank the school staff and of course the students themselves and the SRC for all their hard work and co-operation in very trying times.

School Uniform

Full school uniform must be worn while travelling to and from school, as well as in school. This includes flat or low heeled plain black shoes. (Canvas, ballet style shoes are not suitable and ankle and doc martin boots are not acceptable.) Students who wish to wear a scarf may wear the school winter scarf only. Other scarves are not allowed. Please note that from next year, there is an option to wear the school's official uniform trousers. These are now available from Arnott's Uniform Shop. Jewellery must be kept to a minimum – one small pair of earrings and **NO facial or body piercings**. Hair colour should be natural. Unconventional styles are not allowed (the school authorities are the arbiters of acceptable hair styles). In relation to make-up, the discrete use of foundation is allowed in Senior Cycle only. NO other make-up, fake tan, false nails or nail varnish may be worn while in school uniform or on school activities. The sanction for breaching this latter rule (make up/nail varnish/false nails) is detention. (Permission to wear the school tracksuit will be allowed later in the term, if we have to continue with the covid-safety protocols – however, at the start of the academic year, we expect all students to wear the school uniform as normal by either wearing the school skirt or official school trousers with the school jumper and shirt). All students must wear the official school jacket.

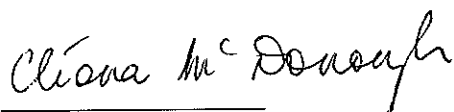
Final note:

A rich holistic education with high academic standards is the hallmark of St. Louis High School. For this reason, we ask that all medical or other appointments be made for times outside of school hours. Similarly, we ask that parents do not request permission for their daughters to leave school early unless the circumstances are exceptional. **We would appreciate your co-operation in this regard, because any absence impacts on your daughter's learning in school and is recorded as either full or partial absence. However, in light of Covid, if your daughter is displaying any symptoms of Covid or is unwell, she should not attend school and medical advice should be sought.**

I wish to remind all parents who have daughters that would like to join **First Year in St. Louis High School in September 2022** that a new Admissions Policy is in place. Any late applications for admission in September 2022 can only be accepted from October 1st 2021 and for a 3-week period. As we consistently have long waiting lists, we wish to avoid any situation where there is disappointment for sisters of our current students.

I wish everybody a lovely, relaxing summer break and look forward to seeing you all at the end of August.

Le gach dea-ghuí,



Cliona McDonough
Principal