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Acting Principal Mr Paul Berne | BA Hons | PGCE

16th March 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well. We are delighted to be able to welcome our Year 12-14 pupils back to Edmund Rice College for face-to-face teaching on Monday the 22nd March 2021. This letter outlines what restart will look like for our pupils.

School Return

Pupils should arrive to school in full school uniform for 9am on Monday 22nd March 2021. They should go straight to the form classroom that was assigned to them at the start of the year. The focus for school return will be on allowing all our pupils to reconnect socially with their friends and with staff. We will continue to build upon our positive relationships and help our pupils engage with their learning as they return to the school environment. We will support our students in every way we can to help ease this transition back to Edmund Rice College.

With this in mind, all pupils will be provided with breakfast; bacon rolls and a cup of tea/coffee on the first morning, allowing them the time and space to sit with their peers and reconnect.

All pupils will complete a wellbeing audit which will enable our pastoral teams to understand any difficulties encountered during lockdown, so that we can provide help and support. I want to reassure all our pupils that our ethos of 'Care' will be very much to the forefront as we welcome you back through the doors of ERC. Our Year Heads and Pastoral Teams will be readily available, to listen and provide any additional help and advice needed throughout the course of the pupils' return to support their wellbeing and mental health.

Alternative Assessment Arrangements for GCSE, AS and A Level.

Staff will provide pupils with subject specific information on return in relation to how their grades will be awarded. This year, exam boards are requiring evidence to validate Centre Determined Grades. Whilst pupils will be naturally anxious about the awarding of grades, I can assure everyone that we will help you reach your full potential in the next few months. ERC always performs extremely well at GCSE and A' Level and this year will be no different. Students will not be undergoing any assessments in the lead up to Easter. Our priority focus will be very much pastoral in nature to create the environment to equip our pupils to be engaged and motivated to learn.

Face Coverings

It is now compulsory for all post primary school pupils to wear face coverings, unless medically exempt, in classrooms and when moving about the school. We would ask that all pupils come to school equipped with a face covering every day. We will provide regular air breaks for our pupils as we recognise how difficult it can be to wear a face covering for an extended period. We appreciate all your support in this matter to help keep our entire school community safe. This will not last forever!

We are very much looking forward to welcoming our pupils back on Monday 22nd March. We have missed their laughter, their stories and their 'craic'. I can't wait to be standing at the front door greeting and welcoming everyone back to Edmund Rice College.

Due to the St Patricks Day holidays and a Staff Development Day, remote learning will not be provided from Wednesday to Friday of this week. Enjoy the rest and we will see you all on Monday.

Take care and God Bless,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'P Berne', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

P Berne
Acting Principal