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St Colman's College,
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Co. Mayo.

Principal
Mr. Roy Hession

Deputy Principal
Ms. Maria Byrne

23rd October 2020

Parents/Guardians Newsletter, Halloween 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope you are doing well as we approach the Halloween break of 2020. To say it has been a very strange year is quite the understatement, and we have all had to make serious adjustments to the way we live our lives nowadays. The school experience for all of our students and staff has been so different and I would like to commend everybody for all their hard work and effort, for re-engaging with proper face-to-face teaching and learning after months of remote school work. Teachers and students were keen to get back to the routine of school, even if it wasn't the 'normal' we have been accustomed to over the years, but engaging with other people is part of our nature and at least we have that, even if it's not exactly as it was before.

The 'new normal'

The constant sanitising of hands, the mask-wearing, the social-distancing have become second nature to all of us by now. It's not easy to keep the guard up against Covid-19 but we must do exactly that. The virus is still very prevalent throughout our country so we must remain vigilant and we must continue to watch out for one another, particularly for those with underlying conditions and those most vulnerable. Our students have generally been excellent in their compliance with all the new rules and requirements that have been foisted upon them, and we thank them for that. We encourage them to take a well-earned rest over the Halloween period and to come back on November 2nd, refreshed and ready to face the rest of this school term.

Enrolment 2021-22

Our arrangements for the enrolment of next year's first year students are well underway and we will be hosting a virtual Enrolment/Open evening on Monday 9th November at 4pm. Present restrictions mean we cannot have a traditional Open Evening like we have had in the past so we are going online this year. Please log in to www.stcolmans.ie at 4pm on Monday 9th November for details of how to enrol a student for the 2021-22 school year. All details will be available on the website and will remain there until Friday, November 20th. In the meantime, keep an eye on our Facebook page for further updates.

Leaving Certificate Calculated Grades

Well done to our Leaving Certificate class of 2020 who received excellent results over the past few weeks. It was a very difficult summer for them with the uncertainty surrounding the examinations themselves, the relatively late results, and the errors that emerged in the Calculated Grades model adopted by the Department. All in all, a tough year for the Class of 2020 but they have come through it now and we wish them all the best in the years ahead.

Allergies, Epi-pens, inhalers

Please let us know if your son has any allergies we should be aware of, and make sure he has his inhaler or his epi-pen with him at all times. It is important that we are made aware of any student health issues.

Mobile Phones during morning break

After the midterm break we intend to ask all Junior students to put their mobile phones away during their morning break (11 – 11:10am) so that they may better socialise with the students sitting closest to them and they can have their break without the constant distraction of the phones. We may review this later in the year in relation to other students and in relation to the other break times.

75th Anniversary of the College

St. Colman's College was founded in 1945 by Fr. John Colleran at the behest of the Archbishop of Tuam Most Rev. Joseph Walsh and the local community of Claremorris. This academic year, 2020-21 marks the 75th anniversary of those humble beginnings and we intend to mark the anniversary throughout the year with various events. If you have any particular memories of the College in years gone by, any old photographs or video footage, any newspaper clippings that you think we would be interested in or indeed anything at all that is associated with our history, then we would love to hear from you! We are compiling information from the last 75 years with a view to organising it and sharing it with the St. Colman's College community both here at home and much further afield. If you can add anything to our efforts then please get in touch by phone at **094 93 71442**, by email at office@stcolmans.ie or on our social media links, Facebook and Twitter (@SaintColmans). If you know someone who may have an interest in this project then please put them in touch with us, we would really appreciate it! We will update you on various events to celebrate our anniversary over the coming week and months.

Covid-19 reminders

If any student displays symptoms of Covid-19 **during the Halloween break** please contact your GP who will give advice. If the student is referred for a Covid-19 test and subsequently tests positive then please inform us here in the College **without delay** so that we may help the HSE with their contact tracing arrangements.

If he is a **close contact of a confirmed case** then please follow the guidelines issued by the HSE.

Please note the Principal and Board of Management are **not permitted** to inform members of the school community of the identity of the person or persons who have tested positive for Covid-19 for the following reasons:

Doctor/Patient confidentiality

GDPR legislation preventing the publication of personal data without consent

Thank you for continuing to encourage your sons to follow the guidelines, to work hard in school and at home, to remain positive and upbeat despite all the difficulties around at the moment. We are doing all we can in the College to keep everybody as safe as possible, to keep everybody teaching and learning in the traditional ways and to **keep our school open**. Please encourage your sons to attend school everyday, to be on time for class everyday, and to observe the rules that are in place for everyone's safety and wellbeing.

Enjoy the Halloween break!

With every good wish,

Roy Hession
Principal

