

August 8th 2023

*A chairde,*

*I hope you are keeping well and are enjoying the summer.*

*As we move towards the middle of August it is time to start thinking about the new school year again.*

*This time last year it was an aim of ours to move on from the restrictions associated with the pandemic and to reestablish the standards that are central to the ethos of Pobalscoil Chorca Dhuibhne. We achieved this and we want to add to that again for the upcoming school year. This is important for the school to be able to function effectively but it is also vital for young people to be held to standards that allow them to develop into responsible young adults.*

*As is always the case we hope to achieve this in a positive manner and with your co-operation and support. In particular we will be focusing on the Irish language, the school uniform, school attendance and the Yondr system.*

*We are extremely proud of our status as a Gaeltacht school and we are always looking to promote and enhance this and build on the great work being done at home, in the primary schools and the community. We will be placing particular emphasis on the use of the language socially amongst the students in all their communications around the school. We want to achieve this in a positive manner through a student driven approach. We had an enjoyable 'Comórtas Labhairt na Gaolainne' last year that gathered momentum as the year went on. Last May a student won the fantastic prizes of a laptop in this competition. We will be aiming to build on this in the coming school year.*

*We will also be expecting a high standard with regard to the wearing of the school uniform. We will be using the school stamp system as detailed in our Code of Behaviour. Contact will be made with parents to address any ongoing issues with regard to the uniform. As part of presenting yourself as being ready for the school day it is expected that all students uniforms are neat, clean and worn fully including the school jumper. We recommend black leather shoes but in the case where a student is wearing black runners the logo and sole have to be black also. The school skirt must be worn to the knee. The school trousers should be school issue trousers. Grey athletic wear pants or grey jeans / chinos are not acceptable, for example.*

*As was the case last year a tracksuit with sports gear worn underneath can be worn on the day that PE takes place.*

*As you all know we continued to embed the Yondr system last year to educate our students around mobile phone use and to limit screen time during the school day. In general*

*we were delighted with the results as students engagement levels in class and with each other improved and negative issues during the school day associated with phones were vastly reduced. We will be looking to build further on this for the coming year.*

*Finally, we are going to put a major emphasis on school attendance this year. It is of vital importance that your child / children is present at school every day, except in exceptional circumstances. We will be implementing a new system with regard to signing out during the school day. An information sheet will be sent to you when the students return to school, to explain this system and underlining the importance of full attendance.*

*As always we will be looking to you the parents for support around all of these initiatives.*

*Students will begin to return on a phased basis from Friday August 25th as detailed below. Transition year students will return on Monday September 4th. The school buses will run from Monday August 28th in the morning and after school in the evenings at 1600. The classes that are in for their initial half day will need to be collected on that particular day.*

***Friday August 25th***

*0900 - 1100 First Year*

***Monday August 28th***

*0900 - 1200 First Year and Fifth Year*

*0900 - 1600 Sixth Year (They will be provided with their timetable beforehand)*

***Tuesday August 29th***

*0900 - 1600 First, Second, Third, Fifth and Sixth Year*

***Monday September 4th***

*0900 - 1600 All classes including Transition Year*

*If anyone needs to contact the school with regard to the reopening do not hesitate to call or email me at [em@pcd07.ie](mailto:em@pcd07.ie).*

*We are really looking forward to welcoming everyone back and we will do our very best to ensure that all students have as normal and enjoyable a school year as possible.*

*Le buíochas,*

*Éamonn Mac Muiris*

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Éamonn Mac Muiris  
Príomhoide

