



August 8th 2022

*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. Thankfully we are in a position this year to begin to move on from the restrictions associated with the pandemic. We look forward with optimism to a normal school year.*

*Since March 2020 at the outset of the pandemic we have been extremely mindful of the challenges that all students faced. As a result, we relaxed our expectations in relation to some of the standards that are central to the ethos of Pobalscoil Chorca Dhuibhne. To help our students return to school in the right frame of mind and to promote routine and consistency we will now be expecting a return to our normal high standards. 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 and we will continue to embed 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 two students won fantastic prizes of a bike and a Nintendo Switch 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 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 introduced 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. As with all new initiatives we will be looking to build on it this coming year.*

*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 Monday August 29th as detailed below. Transition year students will return on Monday September 5th. The buses will run from Tuesday August 30th 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.*

**Monday August 29th**

0900 - 1200      *First Year*

**Tuesday August 30th**

0900 - 1200      *Sixth Year*

0900 - 1600      *First Year*

**Wednesday August 31st**

0900 - 1200      *Fifth Year*

0900 - 1600      *Sixth & First Year*

**Thursday September 1st**

0900 - 1200      *Third Year*

0900 - 1600      *Sixth, Fifth & First Year*

**Friday September 2nd**

0900 - 1315      *Sixth, Fifth, Third, Second and First Year*

**Monday September 5th**

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