



# THORNHILL COLLEGE

1<sup>st</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

In light of Minister Weir's announcement yesterday, I wanted to write to you to outline our school restart plans.

The staff will return on Wednesday 6th January as scheduled and this day will be used to finalise our blended learning plans. Therefore, **all students will be taught remotely on 7th and 8th January.**

Pupils in **Years 12-14** will then **return to school on Monday 11th** for face to face teaching. The remaining year groups (**Years 8-11**) will continue to be **taught remotely until further notice.**

We will also accommodate the children of key workers and vulnerable children from Thursday 7th January. A list of identified key workers is included and should you fall into this category I would greatly appreciate it if you could contact the main office on Wednesday 6th January. This will help us put the necessary plans in place for the children returning to school for supervised learning.

The formal examinations scheduled for some students in January will go ahead adhering to strict PHA guidance. In the coming days the relevant departments will contact you to inform you of any revision sessions in advance of these modular examinations.

Whilst we appreciate that this is a difficult time for all I want to assure you that we are here to support you and your family in any way we can. We are already well advanced in the use a number of online platforms and parental guides for Google Classroom and Microsoft Teams will be made available on our school website.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and wish you and your families a very happy and safe New Year.

Warmest regards

Sharon Mallett

**Key workers** are defined as:

- Health and Social Care. This includes doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, home carers and staff required to maintain our health and social care sector;
- Education and childcare. This includes pre-school and teaching staff, social workers, youth workers and those specialist education professionals who will remain active during the Covid-19 response;
- Public safety and national security. This includes civilians and officers in the police (including key contractors), Fire and Rescue Service, prison service and other national security roles;
- Transport. This will include those keeping air, water, road and rail transport modes operating during the Covid-19 response;
- Utilities, and Communication. This includes staff needed for oil, gas, electricity and water (including sewage) and primary industry supplies to continue during the Covid-19 response, as well as key staff in telecommunications, post and delivery, banking and waste disposal;
- Financial Services - This includes staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure);
- Food and other necessary goods. This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution and sale, as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (e.g. hygiene, medical, etc.);
- Retail. This includes those workers who have been working throughout the pandemic in food retail, for example, and will now extend to those working in other retail businesses permitted to operate by the Executive from June 2020;
- Other workers essential to delivering key public services such as the National Crime Agency; and
- Key national and local government including those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the Covid-19 response.

