



ARCHBISHOP MCHALE COLLEGE

BACK TO SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

W

elcome back to all our students and their families for the academic year 2020-

2021. We wish everyone a good year. Particular good wishes to our new 1st Years, as they begin their adventure in Archbishop McHale College. Special mention also for our 3rd and 6th Years who are entering the final year of preparation for their State Exams.

We have been very busy preparing our school for the safe return of our students and staff since July. Making the necessary physical changes and re-imagining everything that happens in the school, from the moment we open in the morning until lock up time in the evening, has been a mammoth task. This has involved assessing the capacity of each classroom, reconfiguring & repurposing spaces, restructuring the entire timetable, replacing double desks with singles, removing extraneous furniture & lockers, ensuring each student desk in every room is positioned at least one metre shoulder to shoulder from other students, installing sanitiser dispensers and signage in each classroom and throughout the school, introducing one way system with a view to minimising interaction, and organising deep cleaning of the entire school. Student health, safety & well-being have been, and will continue to be, central to our planning and preparations. Our school, just like every other school in the country, may appear different in a physical sense but we will strive to maintain what is critically important-the warm Archbishop McHale College welcome, the promotion of our core values, excellence in teaching and learning, our commitment to the individual and the provision of holistic education for our students.

The return to school and routine will require some re-adjustment and we all have to become accustomed to a new way of doing things. All year groups have successfully completed their Induction Programmes, which focused primarily on the sharing of important general information and COVID-19 protocol training. It is so important that students comply with all instructions with regard to the wearing of masks, sanitising of hands, desks and chairs, physical distancing and our new one-way system.

If a student is unwell, they must not attend school. Excellent behaviour is expected in every lesson and during break/ lunch times. This will undoubtedly be a year like no other and there will be challenges along the way. It is our absolute hope that the school will remain open, but we have to prepare for the possibility of school closure. Every student will become more familiar with using Microsoft Teams in all subjects. They will also be made aware of how teaching and learning will proceed in the event of a school closure.

Be assured of our commitment to ensure the potential of each individual student is achieved and the experience is a safe, happy and productive one.

With every good wish for the year ahead.

John David Kearney, Principal



Contact

093 24237



Email

info@amctuum.ie



Address

Dublin Road, Tuam, Galway, H54KC66

Huge thanks to everyone for their co-operation with and adherence to the new safety measures put in place to manage our campus. **Keep up the great work!**

INFORMATION DAY

An information day for future students of Archbishop McHale College will take place on:

SATURDAY, THE 10TH AND 17TH OF OCTOBER

All Sixth Class students and their parents / guardians are welcome to attend. Let us show you what our school has to offer and the journey that your son or daughter could embark on with us.

Please visit our school website for more information.
archbishopmchalecollege.ie



CHANGES TO OUR SCHOOL DAY

- **New Entrances & Exits:**
 - 1st & 2nd year students use the gate on the Athenry Road.
 - 3rd & TY students use the middle entrance on the Athenry Road.
 - 5th, 6th and LCA students use the front gate.
- Classes commence at 9.00 each day. This means that students need to be in school before 8.55.
- **Staggered Breaks & Lunches:**
 - 1st, 2nd & TY
10.20 – 10.30: Break
12.30 – 13.00: Lunch
 - 3rd, 5th, 6th & LCA
11.00 – 11.10: Break
13.10 – 13.40: Lunch
- School finishes at 15.40 on Monday to Thursday and at 13.10 on Fridays.

MAKE PUNCTUALITY A PRIORITY

Journals & Homework:

School journals have been distributed to all students from 1st to 6th year at a cost of €10 each. It is imperative that students use their journal to record and track homework. Homework is also being posted on Microsoft Office Teams. Please ensure your child's homework is completed each night and that you sign the homework journal at the end of each school week. Homework includes oral work, aural work, reading, revision, research and written work. Homework must be completed neatly and to a high standard. You will find the relevant Homework Policy on our school website. Please take time to review with your child and sign.

FACE MASKS ARE MANDATORY AND MUST BE WORN CORRECTLY BY ALL STUDENTS AT ALL TIMES



Coronavirus COVID-19 How to Prevent



Wash Cover Avoid Clean Stop Distance



In an effort to keep our students and staff safe we must respectfully request that **NO** unscheduled visitors arrive to the school. This includes the dropping off of forgotten items such as lunch, ingredients, text books etc.

Equally it is not possible to make announcements or guarantee the relaying of messages to students throughout the day. Please make arrangements in advance of the school day.

If you wish to make an appointment with a member of staff or have a concern or query please contact your son/daughters year head.

1st year: Edel Burke (eburke@amctuum.ie)

2nd year: Deirdre Foley (dfoley@amctuum.ie)

3rd year: Tomas Heneghan (theneghan@amctuum.ie)

TY & LCA: Breda Mullins (bmullins@amctuum.ie)

5th year: Maeve Waldron (mwaldron@amctuum.ie)

6th year: Danni Barrett (dannibarrett@amctuum.ie)

Thank you for your understanding and co-operation.

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

**WE ALL
MUST DO IT
TO GET
THROUGH IT**



STAY SAFE



SAVE LIVES

SCHOOL
PAYMENTS

Thanks to all the parents & guardians who have made the relevant payments of school fees. All fees can be paid online using Way2Pay. If this is not convenient please send the relevant fee to school with your son/daughter in a sealed envelope. Please include the students name and amount enclosed.

Once again we would ask for the support of everyone in remembering the important points:

- Courtesy is always expected: ***Please & Thank You***
- Please be on time for school and class every day.
- Full uniform & mask each day: neat & tidy. Students in incorrect uniform may be refused entry to class until correct uniform is brought in to school.
- Absolutely no facial piercings, even under a mask—students will not be permitted to class.
- Please turn off mobile phones and store in school bag or lockers. The use of mobile phones is not permitted on school grounds.



Contact

093 24237



Email

info@amctuum.ie



Address

Dublin Road, Tuam, Galway, H54KC66