



## DOMINICAN COLLEGE SION HILL

CROSS AVENUE, BLACKROCK, CO. DUBLIN, A94 TP97

Phone: (01) 2886791 Email: [admin@sionhillcollege.ie](mailto:admin@sionhillcollege.ie) Website: [www.sionhillcollege.ie](http://www.sionhillcollege.ie)

*"Every moment is a fresh beginning"*

T.S. Eliot

24<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We write with some important updates for our school.

The public health guidelines relating to COVID-19 are changing significantly from 28<sup>th</sup> February. These changes will be a welcome respite for many of our staff and students, who have shown remarkable resilience, adaptability and dedication throughout the public health emergency of the last two years. As we have done since the start of this pandemic, we will continue to adhere to all current public health advice.

### **New COVID-19 Guidelines**

The Government has accepted the recommendations of NPHE to remove remaining restrictions relating to mask-wearing and physical distancing in schools. If members of staff or students wish to continue wearing face masks or coverings, they may do so, but it is no longer mandatory. Continued use of good infection prevention and control measures such as hand washing, respiratory hygiene, and ventilation is advised.

We have been advised by the Department of Education that schools should now resume normal school routines and normal teaching and learning activities. As the general requirement for physical distancing in society no longer applies, schools are no longer required to maintain these arrangements.

Use of changing rooms can resume. Importantly, this means that the temporary changes to our Uniform Policy (such as wearing tracksuits to school on the days that PE classes are timetabled) are no longer necessary.

### **School Uniforms**

When we return to school next week, the Uniform Policy will be strictly enforced and we appeal to parents and guardians for their full support in this important matter. Full uniform must be worn to school every day. Changing rooms are now fully operational and if students have PE or after-school sport, they should change into their sports uniform for these activities only. PE uniform may not be worn to and from school.

The school Code of Behaviour (Section 2.5) states that full uniform is obligatory. Jewellery should be simple and in keeping with the uniform. A maximum of two rings, one pair of discreet earrings and

one small chain is allowed. **No facial jewellery is allowed.** Below is a reminder of other aspects the school uniform.

#### Normal Uniform

- Regulation Grey Skirt / Grey Trousers
- Regulation Red Jumper with School Crest (Black Jumper 6<sup>th</sup> Years)
- White uniform blouse with Revers
- Grey/Black Knee socks or Tights
- Low black shoes (boots or sports footwear may not be worn)
- Black school jacket with hood and Sion Hill Name

#### PE Uniform

- Red Sion Hill tracksuit bottoms / leggings
- Black PE Sports top
- Black School Tracksuit Jumper
- Appropriate footwear. Fashion trainers such as Converse, Vans or Keds are not permitted.

Following on from surveys of our students, our uniform supplier has made changes to the material used for the school tracksuit bottoms. Members of our sports committee sought feedback from all year groups and this feedback was considered in the design. This new tracksuit may be ordered from our uniform suppliers if required. Importantly, the overall design is similar to our existing tracksuits so there is no requirement for any student to purchase a new tracksuit bottom unless they choose to do so.


#### **Transition Year Musical**

Our Transition Years are staging a musical production of Disney's "The Little Mermaid" on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of March. We look forward to welcoming students from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> year and their families and friends to see the show. Tickets will be on sale in school from next week and we appeal for strong support from the whole school community.

As a society, we can now hope to begin moving forward with more normality. We look forward to welcoming people to our school for events such as the musical, information evenings and graduation ceremonies. Our extra-curricular and sports events can continue. All of these events are an important part of the school year for our students and provide vital opportunities for growth, success and relationship building.

Finally, we would like to thank all our staff, students, parents, guardians and wider school community for all their help and support over the last two years.

Kind regards,



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Dr Orla Condren  
Principal



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Mr Gerry Killion  
Deputy Principal