



16th August 2021.

Dear parents, guardians and carers,

I hope that this communication finds you well. As the start of the school year approaches, I am contacting you regarding arrangements for Second Year 2021 and with staff updates and other news.

Enrolment:

There are 24 students in Second Year and 48 students in First Year. This means that we are full for 2021–2022. Enrolment for First Year 2022 will open in October. If you know of families interested in their child/ren enrolling in First Year 2022 then please advise them to follow us on Facebook or Twitter or to keep an eye out on the website during October.

A particularly warm welcome to our new students in Second Year.

Staff:

A very warm welcome to Clodagh Keher, who is our new school administrator and to Suzin Staunton who is our special class teacher. Welcome also to ASN assistants Jane Eccles and Laura Reid. Thank you to Róisín for her support in the office during the first year of the school. We are delighted also to be playing our part in supporting teachers at the start of their careers and welcome four Professional Master's in Education (PME) teachers who will work alongside our experienced staff. The PMEs are: Patrick King: *Science*, Eddie McGinn: *Spanish and CSPE*, Ronan Reddy: *English and Geography*, Deirdre Griffin: *Business and CSPE*.

Accommodation:

The prefab buildings won't be ready until September 24th. This is very frustrating for everyone in the school community. However, please be assured that there will not be any interruption to your child's education in the interim period. As a separate attachment in this communication, you will find a list of our TDs and Councillors. You may like to contact these public representatives to underline the importance of our school moving to its Goatstown site as soon as possible.

Covid-19:

All health advice regarding Covid-19 comes from the DE and HSE. The Board of Management does not have autonomy to make decisions about any aspect of the Covid-19 and its effect on school life.

We expect all staff and student to wear an appropriate face mask. We will also continue with our sanitising protocols. We hope that the vaccination programme improves matters for everyone. However, we must remain vigilant and careful in equal measure. Thank you, in advance, for your support.

It was confirmed to us on August 11th that there will be no separate mandate from the DES regarding travel for students in secondary school. Please follow the links below to find the most pertinent information from the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Government of Ireland.

[General COVID-19 Travel Advisory - Department of Foreign Affairs \(dfa.ie\)](https://www.dfa.ie/covid-19/travel-advisory)
[gov.ie - Government advice on international travel \(www.gov.ie\)](https://www.gov.ie/en/publications-and-resources/articles/government-advice-on-international-travel/)

As further communications are received from the DE and the HSE we will update our Covid-19 Response Plan.

Important dates and times:

Please keep an eye on the school website for the most up to date school calendar.

I would like to draw your attention, in particular, to:

- Second Year return to school induction: Monday, **August 30th, 2021, from 11.30am - 1pm.**
- Second Year also have a further induction session with our First Years from **8.40am - 10.40am on Tuesday 31st August.** Full days and the school timetable will be followed from Wednesday 1st September.
- Second Year Information Evening: **Thursday 16th September at 7pm.** This is an important meeting for all parents and guardians, but not students, to attend.
- [Parent/Staff Association meeting for all parents and guardians. Guest Speaker Jacinta Kitt. Wednesday, September 29th at 7pm.](#) This meeting will also aim to develop the Parent/Staff Association and will look at developing parent voice in a way that supports the work of the school.

We will advise whether the meetings on September 16th and September 29th can take place in school closer to the time.

Extra-curricular activities:

It will be possible to offer a greater range of sporting and other activities this year. We will contact you with a list of clubs and activities in mid-September.

School Administration Charge:

The school administration charge of €150 is now payable via the school website, <https://pay.easypaymentsplus.com/feepay1v2.aspx?id=1094>. This school administration charge covers the cost of licences for office 365, 24-hour pupil injury insurance, a school locker, a school journal and some charges for activities done during the year. If you would like to pay by instalments, then please tick the relevant option in Easy Payments Plus.

Families transferring into Second year will be contacted by the school office to arrange for the set-up of the School App and Easy Payments Plus. Families who find it difficult to afford the €150 should contact Clodagh in the office in the strictest confidence.

Communications:

A reminder that all general communications from the school will come via the school app. Please make sure that you have downloaded the app so that you receive relevant notifications from the school relevant to your child.

Other Information:

Could we ask that you keep in contact with us about any changes in circumstances that might impact on your child's experience of school? The Second Year Clan Tutor is Niall O'Loughlin noloughlin@goatstownetss.ie and the Year Coordinator is Jennifer Egan jegan@goatstownetss.ie. Our ASN Coordinator is Maireád Kennedy mkennedy@goatstownetss.ie and the special class teacher is Suzin Staunton sstaunton@goatstownetss.ie.

If you have a concern relating to a particular school subject, then please contact the subject teacher in the first instance. Day-to-day information about the school will be posted on the school website www.goatstownetss.ie and especially, on the school app.

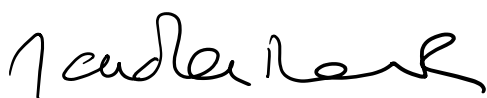
Office hours are 8.30am-4.30pm Monday to Friday. There will be times when the office phone is unattended. Please leave a message and we will get back to you.

Please notify all absences, lates, permissions and requests to collect your child during the school day through the school app.

Our homework policy has been ratified by the Board of Management but remains under review. Please try to encourage your child to do their homework sooner rather than later each day. We make a real and sustained effort to keep homework relevant and 'doable.' You can find a copy of the homework policy [here](#).

We are all looking forward to welcoming everyone back on August 30th.

Best wishes,



Jonathan Browner (principal)