

28th September 2018

Dear Parent / Guardian,

I fully appreciate that this communication is coming to you at short notice and acknowledge it may cause practical challenges for you and your family.

The new Junior Cycle curriculum which will be familiar to most of you is being phased in across all post primary schools. As part of this important initiative there is a requirement for subject teachers across all curriculum areas to participate in CPD (Continuing Professional Development). This is externally arranged through the Department of Education and Skills and will occur on fixed days. While some of these set days will involve a smaller number of teachers (some training days have occurred already this term) and will not impact to a significant degree on the operation of a normal school day there are, unfortunately occasions coming up where this is not the case.

There are two days next week – **TUESDAY 2ND OCTOBER AND THURSDAY 4TH OCTOBER 2018** where the number of teaching staff attending in-service training days will result in a considerable strain on the school's ability to run a normal timetable and provide the necessary supervision to ensure the efficient operation of the school itself. We have tried to secure replacement substitute teachers to cover this essential professional absence however this has proved almost impossible.

Therefore, we are left with no other practical solution but to run these school days with **reduced pupil numbers**. It should be noted that we are not the only school who are facing these difficulties.

The school schedule for next week will be:

Monday 1 st October 2018	School closed to all students as per calendar
Tuesday 2 nd October 2018	School closed for all 3 rd Year, TY and 6 th Year Students
Thursday 4 th October 2018	School closed for all 1 st Year / 2 nd Year and 5 th Year Students
Monday 22 nd October 2018	School closed to all students as per calendar. Whole Staff Junior Cycle Curriculum training

On Tuesday 2nd October and Thursday 4th October the school will be open for all other students apart from those stated above.

We have endeavoured to find alternatives and had hoped to avoid the above necessity. This has not been possible. Our objective is to minimise the disruption to students' learning and curriculum time. It is also to ensure as we go forward that your child's teachers are provided with the important skills required to fully implement and deliver the new Junior Cycle Curriculum.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Regards,

Dermot Lavin
Principal