

A Chairde

We are working away in Dunamase College towards the imminent safe reopening of our school. To facilitate some works, and to allow the best induction for all year groups we have made some alterations to the start of the school year. This is unfortunate, but with the likely cancellation of staff training days through the year it should have no impact on tuition time for the year.

Further details will be sent out to parents / guardians on Thursday August 20th regarding the safety procedures we are adopting for our school community. These are being drawn up in conjunction with the government guidelines available on the school Covid 19 information page (and elsewhere).

Our schedule of opening for students this year is as follows :

1. **First years** : First year students will start on **September 1st** . They will attend at the **Tower Hill** premises at 9am.
Students and parents/ guardians are invited to attend that morning, and students will then start class with their new class tutors and classmates at 9.20am.
From Wednesday 2nd until Friday September 4th first year students will attend from 8.30am – 12.45pm every day.
During this week they will get to know their new school, and their new classmates. They will come to grips with their timetable and meet their new teachers. They should also bring their iPads with them and we will help them get started on the school online learning system.
2. **Second year students** : Second years will return to the **Railway Street** building at 9am on **September 3rd**. They will attend school until 12.45pm on Thursday. On Friday 4th September they will attend from 8.30am- 12.45 pm as usual.
3. Third year students : Third years will return to the Railway Street building at 9am on **September 4th**. They will attend school until 12.45pm.
4. **Transition Year** students will start school on Tuesday **September 8th** at the Tower Hill premises.
5. From Monday September 7th all students will attend school from 8.20 – 3.30 Monday – Thursday and 8.20 – 12.45 Friday.
6. The school will no longer be closed on November 2nd for a Proposed Junior Cycle Training Day
7. We suggest from a point of view of reducing traffic congestion students attending Railway Street should be dropped off on the Main Street in Portlaoise and students attending Tower Hill be dropped off at the car parks at the Railway Street or towards Fitzmaurice Place. A pedestrian crossing is being provided shortly by Laois County Council.
There will be no vehicular access to the Tower Hill premises.