

Frequently asked questions for parents

Q: Does my son/daughter get a break from wearing their mask during the day

A: We encourage your son/daughter to be outside in the morning, break time and lunch time. If they are 2m apart they may safely remove their mask. When they do PE, we actively work to keep social distances so they can remove their mask. We are also using non-exam subjects to give additional time to students to be outside or in an environment where they can remove their mask. We also allow, if a class is small enough and has more than 2m distance between student then they can safely remove their mask.

Q: What happens if my son/daughter does not attend school this year?

A: While it is not ideal, we understand there are circumstances where families may have a high-risk member and they take the decision for the greater good. Please talk to us directly and we will see what can be done but unfortunately with the vast majority of student present it is not possible to conduct both full classes physically and online. Nor are we able to live stream or prerecord lessons so this only leaves staff putting notes on TEAMS (our new education platform) but your son/daughter will need to be present for training from their teacher. It's not easy.

Q: My son/daughter missed induction day

A: We are organising an induction day catch up with me on Wednesday 16th from 12.40 – 1.40 where I will ensure that the parts the students have missed are covered as quickly as possible. Unfortunately, we are not able to do it during normal class times.

Q: When will evening study start?

A: Evening study will start Monday 14th and run Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 3.45 to 5.45. Depending on numbers, masks will not be required if we can maintain a 2m distance between students. Attendance will be kept of the students attending study. Preference is given to 6th, 5th and 3rd years. Homework club will be in operation for specific students in 1st and 2nd. This is organised through Ms O'Neill our SEN co-ordinator and the SNA's

Q: Will the canteen always take cash?

A: The canteen is taking cash currently with a view to moving to a cashless fob over the course of the next two months. The fob is connected to a unique number that can be topped up online. The school will normally not handle cash on behalf of the canteen as they are a separate company.

Q: What happens in practical classes where a staff member is required to be in close contact with your son/daughter to demonstrate something?

A: This is something that we have assessed as part of risk assessment. Our solution is as follows, all students sanitise before entering the class. All surfaces have been cleaned prior to the class arriving. The equipment that students handle has been disinfected. After the tasks are completed the students will clean their hands and the surfaces of the desk they are using, if appropriate. We consider this to be a safe environment. We are also looking to purchase a visualiser that will allow demonstrations to be done by the teacher and display them on the white board. If a parent/guardian feels there is a difficulty for them, or their son/daughter please contact me directly and I will discuss it with you.

Q: I want to write a note in my sons/daughter's journal for to inform the school of a specific situation, is this allowed?

A: Our preferred method of communication is to send the message through the App. This is quick and very handy. If you are having difficulties please contact app@woodbrookcollege.ie and assistance will follow. However, this may not be possible for everyone, so notes are allowed in the journal. They are presented to Form Tutors first thing in the morning. We will also accept a phone call or email to let us know the situation. The most important thing here is to communicate a set of circumstances to us as soon as possible.

Q: What happens if my son/daughter is not feeling well?

A: If your son/daughter is showing any of the four main symptoms of Covid which are a temperature, a dry cough, shortness of breath or a loss of taste/smell then please keep them at home and contact your doctor immediately to arrange a test. While they await the results of the test, they are to stay at home and follow the advice of the medical staff. Please contact the school as soon as possible to keep us informed. If a case is positive, then the HSE will advise us what to do.

Q: Am I allowed to drop off items to school for my son/daughter?

A: Yes, but we will ask you to label the item and we have a storage box for whatever is dropped off. We send messages to students on our internal communications system and they will then come and collect the item. It is not ideal and while we have had a few teething problems over the last few days this has now been corrected and all systems are go.

Q: Are extracurricular activities going ahead this year?

A: As many extracurricular activities are taking place in Woodbrook as I can possibly have. Extracurricular activities are an essential part of your son/daughter's educational experience and future memories of their school years. In all cases we will ensure that we follow the direction of the governing body of the sport/activity involved.

Q: What happens if a student or class have to stay home for a two-week period due to Covid?

A: Effectively if an entire year/class are removed they will be thought online as if they were in the class or as close to this as can be managed over a screen. We will be moving to all homework on TEAMS over the coming weeks so that will also help the individual student that may be at home for a day or so.

Q: What does my child wear for PE now?

A: As we are now allowing your son/daughter to wear their PE clothing all day we must have some specific boundaries around what is worn. While I said I would not put you to any additional cost I am asking you to allow me to go back on my word for one thing. I want to make the Woodbrook T-shirt, which is approximately €12, compulsory. Most all students in the first 4 years have this already and I will make an exception for 6th years. All tracksuits bottoms must be black and plain. The top of the tracksuit must be plain and a neutral colour such as black, blue or grey. If this works for the remainder of this year, we will look to make the ½ zip PE top compulsory for 1st through to 4th next year and allow all years to wear PE gear on PE days.

Q: I want to ask a question that has not been asked already?

A: Please send an email to henry.hurley@woodbrookcollege.ie and a complete compilation of the frequently asked questions and answers will be publish on the website and also sent through the app.