

Note to co-operating teachers, Extended Placement 2020

A mhúinteoir,

Thank you for facilitating a student in your class for the Extended Placement. The College is particularly grateful to you for facilitating the student while the whole school community adapts to the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. It has impacted on education at all levels and the College is grateful to you for enabling the student continue with this element of his/her course. Prior to 4th Year, the student has complete eleven weeks of placement over three years, has completed all compulsory curriculum modules. I hope that the effort they make in your class reflects this experience and that the student makes the most of his/her time with your class on behalf of the pupils.

The student will be in the school from September 21st – Nov. 20th and the **Extended Placement Weekly Schedule** indicates how this time is spent. The **Strands – Teaching and Learning Initiatives** outlines the activities they may be involved in from Sept. 28th – Oct. 23rd. Due to Covid-19, the student may be based primarily in one or two classes for the Strand engagements, under normal circumstances, the student would undertake this work throughout the school. From Nov. 2nd – 20th the student will teach in an assigned class, with a gradually increasing teaching commitment.

For all teaching, the student is required to plan in line with your requests and to be cognisant of the curriculum principles of integration, collaborative learning and active learning while mindful of the protocols in place in the class for Covid-19.

As per Teaching Council guidelines, class teachers are welcome to provide informal non-evaluative feedback to students. Students have been advised to take on-board any guidance and suggestions offered to them by the class teacher. MIC guidelines on providing feedback focus on the five competence areas - **Planning and Preparation, Classroom Management, Strategies for Teaching, Learning and Assessment, Reflective practice and Personal Qualities and Professionalism**. Please refer to **Information for Co-operating Teachers** and **Supporting the Student Teacher on Placement**. As in-school supervision by our tutors cannot occur during this placement, students are asked to pay particular attention to the feedback and guidance offered to them by their co-operating teachers. All such feedback is provided to support the student and is not evaluative or assessment related.

Our tutors are encouraged to be open to receiving feedback on the student's performance from you and your engagement with the student and tutor is appreciated. The tutor will contact the school on four occasions throughout the placement to check-in with the principal and co-operating teachers. As the pupils' welfare and learning is the central concern on placement, please bring any noteworthy issues of professional competence to the tutor's attention.

MIC regards the teaching and learning discussions between teachers and students to be valuable and deserving of recognition in the spirit of the Teaching Council's Cosán policy. To document your contribution to the student's placement, an acknowledgement will be issued to you at the end of the placement - should you prefer not to receive an acknowledgement of participation please inform Joanne Keane (joanne.keane@mic.ul.ie). Thank you again for facilitating the student and for your co-operation with School Placement especially during this challenging time.

Go n-éirí leat,

Dr. Neil Ó Conaill.

Director of School Placement.