



23/01/20

RE: Independent Review Group Recommendations

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Further to our previous letter of 16th January in relation to the report of the Independent Review Group, we wish to update you further on the recommendations of the report. The report must first be presented to the board of LMETB before it can be published in full which may take a number of weeks. However we are anxious that you have as clear a picture as possible of what practical changes the report will mean for your child for the coming academic year.

In that light, we have summarised some of the reports' recommendations that most readily affect students, parents and staff and our initial action planning below:

Incoming first year students in September 2020 will not buy iPads, but will instead buy a full set of textbooks. They not be part of the Book Rental Scheme in First Year. In subsequent years, some of the textbooks that these students require will be provided through Book Rental.

To address the need to facilitate digital technology being integrated in their learning, the school will purchase 2 class sets (2x30) of Microsoft Surface Go devices that will be available for use in school by incoming first year students.

There will be an expectation that incoming first year students will have access to a device/PC at home to enable them to access any digital resources provided by their teachers.

From September 2020, students in 2nd and 3rd year (that is, current 1st and 2nd year students) will be provided with a set of textbooks through our Book Rental Scheme for use in school, as directed by their teacher, and at home. These students will still be expected to bring their iPads to school so their teachers will use a blend of digital and text based resources.

Over time, we will migrate from Schoology to a Microsoft Office 365 based platform for managing, sharing and communicating digital resources. Given how deeply embedded Schoology is in the day-to-day practice of learning and teaching, the school will take care to ensure this migration is not rushed and that staff and students are given sufficient training as appropriate in how to make best use of the new platform.

Over the remaining two terms of the school year, a review will take place of our Mobile Phone/Device Policy, our ICT Usage Policy and our Homework Code. The review of the homework code will specifically be focussed on establishing a schedule or timetable for homework to help alleviate the issue of school bag weight for students.

Over the coming weeks, the school will be working to solve the practical and logistical challenges of implementing these recommendations for September 2020 and we will communicate to you as early as possible any action that you need to take for your child to be fully prepared for the 2020/21 school year.

Yours faithfully,

Seamus Meehan

Principal & Secretary to the Board of Management