



etb

Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna
Chill Chainnigh agus Cheatharlach
*Kilkenny and Carlow
Education and Training Board*

1st September 2021

Dear Colleagues

I hope that you and your families continue to be safe and well and I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all back to work. As we begin the 2021/22 academic year I wish all the members of staff in our schools, centres and offices every success in their work and good health in the year ahead.

This is an exceptionally busy time for our leaders and teams as they begin the reopening of schools, centres and offices. As an organisation we have placed significant focus again this year on our preparations for reopening and on ensuring that we have as comprehensive a COVID 19 Response Plan in place in each location as possible.

The tireless work of our school leaders, centre and service managers and our administration and support teams has enabled us to welcome back our students and learners. I know that some challenges may arise during the year ahead but we have procedures in place to seek to ensure the health and safety of all those within Kilkenny and Carlow Education and Training Board and we are following the Department of Education, the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science and the public health advice.

I understand that the return to work and learning will come with particular challenges and concerns again this year and our preparations have been undertaken to provide as much reassurance as possible to our staff, students and parents that the health and safety of everyone is our priority. It is important for the well-being of you, our staff and that of our students and learners.

While the vaccination programme has meant that the COVID 19 situation has improved in recent months we must continue to be vigilant. We all have a responsibility individually and collectively to do everything we can to stay safe by following the guidance and taking the necessary precautions.

Our collective objective this year is to prioritise the onsite educational experience of our students and to strive to ensure that their learning is enriching and enjoyable and with the help of everyone, we look forward to a learning year with a more *normal* feel to it.

I would also like to take the opportunity to remind you that in May we moved to a new CoreHR Employee Self-Service System for staff. I attach a copy of a Staff Briefing note for your information and encourage you to familiarise yourself with the system.

As we embark on the new academic year our executive and administrative teams in Kilkenny and Carlow ETB are working hard to support our schools, centres and services as they reopen once again. I want to reassure you of our commitment to continue to do this during the months ahead.

Bí cúramach agus bí sábháilte.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Eileen Curtis". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Eileen Curtis
Chief Executive