



Holy Cross

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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HEADTEACHER **Mr I Gaughan BA**

25 August 20

Dear Parent/Carer

We are looking forward to the return of all our pupils in September. This letter contains some essential information and outlines our plans to keep our children safe and ensure they have access to a full, broad and balanced curriculum.

Return Dates

Pupils will return to school on the following dates:

Wednesday 2 September	Year 7 induction
Thursday 3 September	Years 10 and 11 (and Year 7)
Friday 4 September	Years 8 and 9 (and Years 7, 10 and 11)

On the first day back pupils will assemble in form groups on the fire lines and be walked through the new routines. On subsequent days they will go straight to their designated areas. Parts of the car park will be cordoned off on these days. Please drop your children off and leave to prevent a dangerous build-up of traffic.

School Day

The school day has been temporarily altered:

Registration and Period 1	8.55 am – 10.15 am
Period 2	10.15 am – 11.15 am
Break	11.15 am – 11.30 am
Period 3	11.30 am – 12.30 pm
Lunch	12.30 pm – 1.05 pm
Period 4	1.05 pm – 2.05 pm
Period 5	2.05 pm – 3.05 pm

Buses are being arranged to come for pupils at 3.05 pm. If buses are late, pupils will be supervised until they arrive.

Pupils should arrive at school from 8.45 am and should go to their outside zone area.

Transport

In line with government guidance we are encouraging as many pupils as possible to walk or cycle to school. Pupils can be brought by car and should be dropped off and collected via the Myles Standish Way entrance.

School bus services are running as normal. Whilst it is not a legal requirement to wear a face covering on a school bus we strongly recommend it as year group “bubbles” will be mixed on these services.

Pupils travelling to school on public buses are required to, and must, wear a face covering.

The face covering should be stored in a plastic bag in the pupil’s school bag during the school day.

Uniform

School uniform rules and our expectations about appearance are unchanged. Information about uniform, appearance and school rules is available on the website.

As pupils cannot use changing rooms, to facilitate PE, pupils should wear their PE kit to school on the days they have PE. This will enable us to deliver a practical PE curriculum. This does not apply to GCSE PE lessons, just to core (practical) PE.

PE kit must be the authorised Holy Cross full kit.

Equipment and Lockers

Pupils should only bring to school the equipment and resources they need for that day in one sensible and appropriate school bag. Lockers will not be allocated so pupils will need to keep all their possessions with them all day.

Pupils will only share equipment in school where educationally necessary and then it will be sanitised.

Bubbles and Zones

Each year group is a “bubble”. Each bubble has its own zone in school. During the day pupils will not cross bubbles or go to other zones except in specific circumstances and then additional cleaning and sanitisation will take place.

To enable use of practical rooms and ensure full curriculum access, zones may change from day to day, but never during the day. This is to eliminate pupils mixing outside their bubble during the school day. There are very few exceptions for this: pastoral support; SEND support; peripatetic music lessons; behaviour support/sanctions.

By doing this we are sticking to our principles of:

- minimising pupil mixing
- ensuring a full curriculum to all pupils
- keeping it simple, manageable and sustainable

I sincerely hope that during the year we can relax some of these procedures. If we can't, these bubbles and zones can operate for a full year.

Curriculum

All pupils have access to all lessons for the appropriate amount of time.

Every department has a recovery curriculum which will quickly enable pupils to make up lost time but also focus on re-engaging with school routines and building confidence.

Lunches and Breaks

Each zone has its own recreational area and pupils will be encouraged to go out and get some fresh air at break and lunch. They will not mix with other bubbles.

Food will not be available to purchase before school or at break; pupils can bring a healthy snack and a drink.

Pupils can either bring a packed lunch or they will be able to order a "grab bag" from the canteen. There will be a limited daily menu offering both hot and cold food and there will still be Friday Chips Day!

Lunch will be eaten in classrooms or where appropriate in the zone's outside space.

If pupils are taking school lunches their individual accounts will be debited and parents should ensure that there are sufficient funds on their account using ParentPay.

Pupils in receipt of free school meals will be asked to choose from the daily menu and order accordingly.

Payments to School

School is no longer accepting cash or cheques. All payments to school should be made via ParentPay. Accounts from primary school can be transferred to Holy Cross. If you have misplaced your original letter giving you details on how to set up a ParentPay account, duplicates are available on request. Payments using PayPoint are also available on request.

Pastoral Support

Some children will find returning to school more difficult than others. A full package of support will be available to those pupils who need it.

Behaviour

Our expectations of behaviour are unchanged. There will be an addendum to the behaviour policy published on the website in September. This is to make sure that our pupils and staff are protected from behaviours which may place them in danger during the pandemic.

Form Tutors

Your child may not see their form tutor every morning. This is to reduce pupil and staff movement. Form tutors, however, will still be monitoring and supporting their pupils and they are the pupils' main contact in school.

Contacting School

Visits to school without an appointment are prohibited. Parents' main contact is still the form tutor through the planner or via email using admin@holycross.lancs.sch.uk

During the autumn term there will be no parents' or guidance evenings. Pupil reports will be sent home as usual and we will contact you with any concerns. Equally, please let your child's form tutor know if you or your child has any concerns.

Pupil or Family Illness

If a pupil becomes ill with Covid 19 symptoms during the day, they will be isolated in a safe place and parents will be called to take them home.

If a pupil shows signs of Covid 19, parents should keep their child (and any siblings) at home, arrange a test and let school know the outcome.

Families of pupils (or other family members) showing symptoms of Covid 19 should follow PHE advice. There is a link at the end of this letter detailing that advice.

School will liaise with LCC Health Protection Team to manage any local outbreaks. Parents will be kept informed of any issues that affect them.

Families Returning From Abroad

If you have returned from a foreign holiday you must follow the government's quarantine rules, if they apply, and not send your children to school.

Information and Guidance

All information on Covid 19 restrictions and guidance can be found on:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Information about safely travelling to and from school can be found on:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/coronavirus-updates/schools/>

If you have any specific questions about your child's return to Holy Cross you can email us on admin@holycross.lancs.sch.uk

And Finally . . .

I hope the information above gives you an overview of the measures we have put in place and gives you and your family confidence that it is safe to return to school. There is no such thing as zero risk and there never was. The risk to children's well-being, educational development and future prospects is considerable if they miss any more time in school.

Our priority, as always, is the wellbeing of our children.

I hope you and your families enjoy the last few days of the holiday and I look forward to welcoming back all our pupils next week.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I Gaughan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

I Gaughan
Headteacher