



Holy Cross

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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HEADTEACHER **Mr I Gaughan BA**

September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you for supporting our school and for sending your children back in. Most year groups had 100% attendance in the first week. Thank you for trusting us.

School Operations

The plans we put in place were based on three principles:

- minimising pupil mixing: this has worked very well. Year groups do not mix and crossing of zones is rare and controlled. Pupils remain in their year group 'bubbles' throughout the day including during free time
- ensuring full curriculum access: our pupils are accessing the full curriculum. There are some restrictions on some aspects of practical lessons but these will be worked through over time
- keeping it manageable and sustainable. The procedures are working but it is challenging for staff who are working exceptionally hard to make sure all our pupils receive the best possible teaching

Face Coverings

As we (Lancashire) are now subject to local restrictions, all members of the school community have to wear a suitable face covering in enclosed spaces including corridors and internal areas between lessons and at break and lunchtime. Face coverings are optional in outside areas. Face coverings are not to be worn in class for lessons. Face coverings must be a plain, dark or neutral colour.

Transport

We are working closely with LCC to improve school transport and avoid pupils travelling on buses used by other schools. Whilst it is not yet compulsory to wear masks on school bus services we strongly advise pupils to do so and to avoid sitting with pupils from other year groups where possible. Masks are compulsory on public transport services.

We know traffic is heavy at the end of the school day. We would urge you not to pick up children on the Bowers as this has become dangerously congested at times. Please use the Myles Standish Way entrance where we can control pupil and vehicular movement.

Parent and Pupil Responsibilities

I have attached a 'Key Messages for Parents and Carers' document from LCC which has the latest guidance on how you and your children (especially in older years) can support the school and wider community.

Uniform

Thank you for your patience whilst we resolved issues with PE kit. Our suppliers are now fully stocked and from Monday 28 September all pupils must be in full Holy Cross PE kit on days when they have PE.

If we have a confirmed case

This appears to be inevitable and we are preparing for every eventuality. If there is a confirmed case in a year group, that year group will be sent home while we attempt to track close contacts. If we can identify limited close contacts, they will be instructed to isolate for two weeks. If we cannot identify limited close contacts, the year group bubble will have to isolate for two weeks.

Blended Learning

If a year group has to isolate, work will be initially set (as during lockdown) through Show My Homework.

Staff are working hard to set up and be trained on Microsoft Teams which will enable a wider range of learning opportunities. Pupils will be given a personal Holy Cross email which will enable them to access home learning. Protocols are being implemented to protect pupils and staff.

In the event of a year group isolation, work will be set according to the pupils' timetable.

If you do not have internet access or suitable technology at home, please let us know.

Our pupils

Almost without exception, our pupils have been a credit to you and our school. They have come back to us in good health, good humour and positive. Behaviour has been excellent and they are working hard and working with us. Those who need extra support are receiving it and are making good progress.

Over 95% of our pupils accessed remote learning over lockdown and this shows; thank you.

I hope you and your families keep safe and well. Please be assured that we are doing everything we can to keep our children safe and accessing the highest possible standard of education.

Yours sincerely



Mr I Gaughan
Headteacher