



# Holy Cross

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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HEADTEACHER **Mr I Gaughan BA**

December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach Christmas I write to update you on some aspects of school life.

## COVID 19 Update

Apart from a spike before half-term we have had very low incidences of COVID 19. This is because we have consistently maintained some basic precautions including ventilation, a focus on handwashing, staff wearing masks in communal areas, limiting visitors to school, limiting social and community events and maintaining enhanced cleaning routines.

I am grateful for the support you have given us, seen through the healthy vaccination take up, the majority of pupils following face-covering rules and the significant number of your children who test on Sunday and Wednesday night. All these things have contributed to keeping our children safe, in school and learning.

We would ask that pupils continue to test regularly, especially just before we return.

## January COVID Testing

Following government guidelines, all pupils for whom we have consent will do a COVID test on the first day back in January. The tests will be conducted under supervision of trained staff in form time so that we don't need a staggered start; pupils have missed enough school over the last two years.

On Tuesday 4 January pupils will not be allowed in to the building until 8.40 am to minimize indoor mixing. They will go directly to form where they will do an LFD test. Any positive results will be sent to a quarantine area and parents will be contacted to collect and arrange a PCR test. Pupils will wear face coverings until test results are confirmed. Please make sure your child has a face covering as they will still need to be worn in communal indoor spaces.

If you haven't consented to LFD testing and want to, please inform us at [admin@holycross.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@holycross.lancs.sch.uk)

## Building Update

We have had a busy term:

- The dining room/hall extension is completed and being used
- The hall has been re-floored
- The all-weather pitch and tennis courts have been re-surfaced and are in use
- New boilers have been installed
- Work to increase capacity in the changing rooms will be completed over the Christmas break along with some classroom decoration

## Farewell

We say goodbye and thanks to Mr Dooley (Attendance Officer) who is taking up a post closer to home. He will be missed, especially by those pupils and staff who have been 'Dooleyed'. We wish him well in the next stage of his career.

## Advent and Christmas

To celebrate the season of Advent and prepare for Christmas our pupils will be having Year group services and Christmas lunches. Sadly, we don't feel able to host a public service.

Our pupils have done a magnificent job of collecting toys and chocolate for local charities.

Our local parishes will welcome you to a number of services and masses over the Christmas period. Details can be found on the Archdiocese website [www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk](http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk).

## ParentPay

An impressive 95% of our parents have signed up for ParentPay which makes it much easier and more secure when paying for items including school meals. A useful feature is that it is possible to set alerts so that if your child's dinner money account is running low you know to add funds. Alternatively, you can set it to automatically top up their account, with a figure of your choice, when the balance drops below a certain amount.

## Some Rule Reminders

Hoodie and soft cotton 'sports tops' are not to be worn for school. They cannot be used as an alternative to an outdoor coat.

Please don't allow your children to have extreme haircuts or piercings over Christmas as this only causes problems for them in January.

Thank you for your support in maintaining high standards in school. The booklet *School Expectations and Rules* is available on the school website. If you need any further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us by phone or email.

## Lost Property

We keep lost property until the end of each term and then dispose of it. If your child has lost anything this term, please send them to the main office before the last day of term.

## Proposed changes to the school day

During the recent lockdowns and restrictions, we shortened our lunch time and finished school at 3.05 pm. We are proposing re-introducing this from Easter 2022. Having trialed our new dining facilities for a term, it is clear that we can easily reduce the length of our lunch break. If you have any questions or concerns about this, please let us know by contacting [admin@holycross.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@holycross.lancs.sch.uk).

## And Finally

School closes for Christmas on Friday 17 December at 12.30 pm. Buses have been arranged for this time. This is a non-uniform day in return for bringing in tins or dry goods for local food banks.

School re-opens on Tuesday 4 January 2022.

I would like to thank all members of our community, staff, pupils and parents for their quiet resilience, hard work and support for each other during what has been another challenging term. It is humbling to see our mission statement being lived out in a thousand small ways every single day. This is why we remain such a vibrant and safe community through these uncertain times

On behalf of the Governors and staff, I wish you a very happy Christmas.

Yours sincerely



I Gaughan  
Headteacher



## Mission Statement

"I have come that they may have life and have it to the full" (John 10:10)

At Holy Cross this means

**LOVE GOD**

**WORK HARD**

**BE KIND**