

All Hallows Catholic High School



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Headteacher: Mr C Horrocks B.A.

Friday 25th September 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

During the past few weeks, I have been very pleased to write to you and provide regular updates on the school's successful response to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. We have enjoyed excellent attendance and we have not had to enact any measures resulting from a positive test of a pupil or adult within our school community. Unfortunately, this came to a halt yesterday when a positive test result for a Year 10 pupil led to 105 pupils from that year group having to isolate until Tuesday October 6th. The pupil in question continues to recover from the effects of the virus and we send that young person our best wishes.

In the event of a class, a full year group or part of a year group having to self-isolate we are able to offer provision which is quite different from that which we delivered during the lockdown period. Pupils at home will be able to join the teacher remotely, who will be teaching the lesson from the class in which the lesson would ordinarily take place. The pupil will simply access his/her school email, where an invite to join the lesson on Microsoft Teams will have been issued to coincide with the timetable. Alternatively, the pupil may follow the link below to download the Teams App, on which the teacher will have set up a 'Team' for each of his or her classes. Both methods are equally efficient.

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-GB/microsoft-365/microsoft-teams/group-chat-software>

To ensure that each pupil being taught remotely gains maximum benefit from these arrangements, we must insist that they treat each day at home as a school day. Most importantly, they should be up and dressed and in attendance for their first lesson. Pupils will be registered by the class teacher and customary classroom conduct rules will apply. Teachers in school must reserve the right to invite a pupil who is misbehaving in an online lesson to leave the session and sanctions will be applied upon return to school. I hope that our pupils will appreciate the lengths their teachers will be going to in this scenario to ensure continuity of learning and that they will respond in a positive fashion.

From Monday 28th September, many teachers will be able to teach their Year 10 pupils who are currently self-isolating in the manner described. However, some may have to wait until Wednesday 30th September for the full service to become available, as we are waiting for some technical equipment to be delivered to enable us to establish a secure connection with pupils at home. In the event of this short delay, teachers will set work for pupils via their school email account on Monday and Tuesday.

On another matter, following a re-assessment of our current plans for opening and in light of the fact that the school is located in an area which is subject to local lockdown restrictions, we have re-evaluated our stance on wearing face coverings in corridors and open spaces in school. A recently ordered shipment of 2,000 face masks should arrive at school early next week. Upon its arrival, we will issue two masks to each pupil and member of staff. They are of high quality, have the recommended three-ply construction and are washable. We will ask both staff and pupils to alternate between the two, wearing one while the second is being washed. Please be mindful of the guidance on the safe wearing and removal of face masks. The bag in which the masks are packed are re-sealable and should be used to store the mask after its removal.

Wearing a face covering in corridors and open spaces will become mandatory at that point for both staff and pupils. I would hope that pupils begin quickly to form a habit of wearing their face mask and that it will simply become a part of the various items of school equipment which must be brought to school on a daily basis. We will keep the practice of wearing a mask under review and will inform you of any change to the policy should the local restrictions ease. I am aware that, for medical reasons, some pupils may be exempt from wearing a mask. I would ask that you inform your child's Year Manager if this is the case and your child will be issued with a small green card which can be kept discreetly about his or her person. Showing the card will be a simple method of demonstrating to an enquiring member of staff that he or she has permission not to wear a mask.

In the block currently hosting pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9, masks should be worn on transit, at break and lunch when moving to and from the yard. Pupils in these year groups do not move between lessons, therefore they should spend only minimal time wearing their masks. Pupils from all year groups **do not have to wear** their masks outside the school buildings on the yard, and **should not** when being taught in class. Pupils in Years 10 and 11 will wear their masks when moving through the corridors to and from the yard at break and lunch and in the corridor during lesson changeovers.

At school and in the community, the times in which we are living continue to present us with many challenges. I thank you for your continued support in trying to keep all of our community safe from harm. If you wish to discuss any of the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Yours sincerely,



Mr C Horrocks
Headteacher