


All Hallows Catholic High School



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Headteacher: Mr C Horrocks B.A.

Friday 18th December

Dear Parent / Carer,

I am writing to thank you for the support you have given to staff during this most challenging of school terms. I have passed on the many lovely emails parents have sent recently to staff, which I know have been so well received. Yesterday, Central Government announced a number of measures which school should consider for the start of term on January 4th and I would like to take this opportunity to offer as much clarity as possible on our plans for the start of the spring term.

I met this morning with fellow senior leaders in the school to plan for January 4th. However, I must at this point, make you aware that further guidance is expected from the Government, so it may be necessary to write to you again shortly before we return to school, should we be required to make further adjustments to the planning. I would not, under normal circumstances, be asking you check your ParentMail account during the Christmas break, but the position of the Government may change without too much notice and we may have to adapt our plans accordingly.

Monday January 4th 2021 will now be an In Service Training Day for school staff. **No pupils** will be expected in school on that day. Staff will use this time to plan for Covid-19 testing which we have been informed will begin to take place in schools, week commencing January 4th. Currently, there is a good degree of confusion regarding the methods and processes which schools will be expected to deploy. Clearly, therefore, this is one aspect of our return which may have to be reported upon once we have finished for the Christmas break and have received further guidance from the Government. On Monday January 4th, staff will also plan for the remote learning which will be delivered to pupils during the first week back after Christmas.

On Tuesday 5th January, we would expect **all pupils in Years 7 and 11** to attend school. Pupils in **Years 8, 9 and 10 will remain at home** for the rest of that week and will be taught remotely. Year 11 pupils, with important examinations soon to come, will I am sure be eager to attend in the spring term from as early as is possible. In the case of Year 7 pupils, we believe that it is important to embark on learning in their new sets, having undertaken so much hard work to assess them at the end of this term and subsequently realign the teaching groups in readiness for the spring term. Additionally, we are mindful that it is Year 7 pupils who parents are most concerned about when assessing childcare needs if they are required to be off school.

One cohort of forty Year 10 pupils are permitted to attend on Tuesday 5th January **only**. This group of Cambridge Nationals PE students will be given a full day of revision in preparation for their external examination which will take place on Monday 11th January. On all other days during the week they will remain at home, learning remotely with their fellow Year 10 peers.

All pupils from Years 7 and 11 (and those from Year 10 attending only on January 5th), who catch a school bus, will be asked to sit separately on the journey to and from school. If travel is on a double decker bus we would ask Year 11 pupils to sit upstairs and Year 7 pupils downstairs. If on a single decker, Year 11s to the rear and Year 7s to the front. In the case of the small group of Year 10s, we would ask them to sit upstairs or to the rear, but away from the Year 11 pupils.

Along with Year 7 and 11 pupils, we will also invite children of key workers and vulnerable pupils to attend from Tuesday 5th January.

The parents of vulnerable pupils have been contacted directly to extend the invitation to attend. If you are a key worker, or you believe that your child should currently be considered significantly vulnerable, I must ask that you email keyworker@allhallows.lancs.sch.uk by **Friday 1st January**, to request that your child should attend. This will enable us to plan carefully for class / year bubbles for the first week of the new term. We must reserve the right to ask for proof of key worker status or to speak directly to parents to establish the vulnerability of a child, as guidance states that where possible, learning should take place remotely in the first week after Christmas.

May I also take this opportunity to remind parents and carers of the requirement to inform school if your child tests positive for C-19 between **Friday 18th December and Thursday 24th December**. Parents and carers should refer to the ParentMail they received last Friday, 11th December to access full details of this requirement. Please use cho@allhallows.lancs.sch.uk, between the hours of 10 am and twelve noon, to report a positive case.

I must apologise to have to write at length about the return to school after the Christmas break so close to the end of term. However, as has been the case a number of times this and the term previously, schools are often only in receipt of information from the Government at very short notice.

I thank you for your support and would like to assure you that I will be available to correspond with you on any of the matters detailed above, once school has finished at 1.30 pm today. Please use the [cho@](mailto:cho@allhallows.lancs.sch.uk) email address above if you wish to clarify any aspect of the information.

Yours sincerely,



Mr C Horrocks
Headteacher