


All Hallows Catholic High School



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Headteacher: Mr C Horrocks B.A.

Thursday 31st December 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

I am writing to you following the Government's announcement yesterday regarding the latest altered plans for reopening schools after the Christmas break. As you know, I wrote to you at the end of the autumn term to provide details of the school's planned provision from Monday January 4th, however, the most recent guidance from both the Government and the Department for Education has resulted in the need to revise our reopening plans and I would like to draw your attention to the following important points.

- Monday 4th January will remain a staff In-Service Training Day (Inset). The school's Senior Leadership Team will attend school to continue the process of discussing the arrangements for rolling out a testing programme in school, currently intended to begin week commencing 11th January. The school office will be staffed to enable parents to contact school directly should they have any concerns which may need addressing. In accordance with the clear 'stay at home' message for Tier 4 areas, the vast majority of school staff will work from home on Monday 4th January and for the remainder of that week. School will be **closed to all pupils on Monday January 4th**.
- On Monday 4th January, teaching staff will be working from home preparing to teach Year 11 classes remotely from Tuesday 5th January. In accordance with our remote learning offer which has been delivered during the last term, departments and individual class teachers will liaise with Year 11 pupils to explain the form that their online learning will take from Tuesday 5th January to Friday 8th January. Year 11 pupils will return to school on **Monday January 11th**. It is still our intention at this time to run the mock examinations from Monday 18th January.
- During the Inset Day on Monday 4th January, teachers will prepare work for pupils in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10, which will be emailed to pupils by the end of that day. This will enable pupils in those year groups to continue learning for the remainder of the week. Teachers will not be delivering 'live' lessons to pupils in those year groups, in accordance with DfE guidance, to enable staff to focus teaching on Year 11 examination pupils and to use the week to plan for the roll out of testing.
- From Monday 11th January to Friday 15th January, pupils in Years 7 to 10 will continue to be taught remotely. Further details will follow regarding the provision which will be available to pupils during that week. Current guidance indicates that all pupils will return to school from **Monday 18th January**.
- On Tuesday 5th January, the school will be open to vulnerable pupils and the children of critical workers (previously known as key workers). In my previous letter, I asked that parents who are critical workers or whose children are considered vulnerable, use the keyworker@allhallows.lancs.sch.uk email facility to indicate if they wish to take up the offer of on-site provision. I would ask that parents continue to be mindful of the DfE's definition of critical workers, found on the Gov.uk website, and the clear messaging of Tier 4 restrictions regarding staying at home if at all possible. Parents who wish to use our on-site provision must indicate their intentions to us as soon as possible to enable us to arrange to accommodate year groups safely, as they must still be accommodated in separate 'bubbles'.

- In my letter sent in the last week of the autumn term, I made particular reference to the return of Year 7 pupils. Our intention was to welcome back Year 7 pupils into their newly formed ability based sets following the recent assessments we had carried out in school. This will clearly not be able to happen under the new rules set out by the Government yesterday. We will not be placing the Year 7 pupils into their new sets until they return to school on Monday 18th January, as it is more logical to allow the pupils to continue to be taught by teachers with whom they have existing and secure relationships. To begin to try to form new relationships with teachers they may not have yet met during their time at All Hallows during a two-week period of remote learning may cause anxiety to both pupils and staff. Therefore, when accessing their work up to January 18th, Year 7 pupils should look for communication from the teachers they were taught by during the autumn term.
- On Monday 11th January, a group of approximately 40 Year 10 pupils will be taking their PE OCR examination. The information we currently hold confirms that this exam is still intended to go ahead. Therefore, the group of Year 10 pupils sitting the exam will be invited into school on Tuesday 5th January as planned, to enable them to access an intensive day of revision in preparation. Those pupils should enter school through the Year 10 designated entrance where they will be met by Mrs Preston and escorted to the area in which they will be safely taught.

Of course, I did not imagine that I would be spoiling the peace of families on New Year's Eve by writing out to you. However, I thought that it was important to provide parents with as much information, as soon as possible, to enable families to make arrangements for next week. I am sure that even further guidance may come the way of schools and there may be a requirement to provide you with details of changes which may need to be made in response to that. Certainly, following the Inset Day which will take place on Monday, I will provide further information about the school's system for on-site testing. Please be assured that no pupil will undergo testing without consent having been sought first. I mention this as it was a concern expressed to me by both staff and parents as the news of the Government's plans to launch testing was announced prior to Christmas.

I hope that you were all able to enjoy Christmas and I wish you happy New Year. Please do not hesitate to contact me over the weekend, via cho@allhallows.lancs.sch.uk, if you wish to seek clarification on the plans detailed above.

Yours sincerely,



Mr C Horrocks
Headteacher