


# All Hallows Catholic High School



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Headteacher: Mr C Horrocks B.A.

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

In my letter you received on New Year's Eve, I provided details of the school's planned staggered start to the spring term 2021. I made reference to remote live lessons for Year 11 pupils who would not return until Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January and the fact that all other year groups would not be expected back to school until January 18<sup>th</sup>. The business of this week for school, was to prepare to roll out a programme of mass testing for staff and pupils which we would have introduced as cohorts of pupils returned to school. I was fully expecting to be writing to you this week with full details of those plans and to seek consent from parents for the testing of pupils. Instead, the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday evening has resulted in those plans being overtaken by a nationwide lockdown and school now only remaining open to our most vulnerable pupils and those children of critical workers.

It is evident that we have moved to a situation much more closely aligned to that which we all experienced in March of last year. The message is clear that children should stay at home and learn remotely if at all possible to reduce contacts and to try to limit the spread of the virus. We would ask that wherever possible parents keep their children at home and support remote learning. If one parent qualifies as a critical worker (please see guidance document attached), we will accommodate their child on site during the period of lockdown. We must reserve the right to request proof of critical worker status to ensure the equitable allocation of places on the school site. The parents and carers of pupils recognised statutorily as vulnerable have been contacted by key member of our pastoral team. If a parent or carer considers their child to be vulnerable, and has not been contacted by a member of staff, please call to seek clarification.

Since the first lockdown which began last March and through the disrupted term we suffered from September to Christmas, teaching staff have developed our remote learning provision to an excellent standard. We continue to learn, and to some extent to wrestle with the challenges presented by technology. We all attended a whole staff meeting on Microsoft Teams yesterday evening to plan out our remote learning offer for the period to February half term and to finalise our arrangements for critical worker and vulnerable pupil teaching on site. The document attached serves as an appendix to the Remote Learning Policy we issued on June 2020 and is intended to inform parents of the structure and delivery of remote learning from this point. I would like to stress that our approach will remain to deliver blended learning, with some lessons being conducted 'live' on Teams. In households where a number of siblings are sharing electronic devices or on those occasions when staff are attending school to supervise the pupils in school, 'live' lessons it will not always be possible to deliver 'live' lessons. We committed, however, to following the timetable of our pupils and would ask that they divide their time up according to their timetable. Our expectation is that all pupils engage with remote learning.

## **Critical worker children and vulnerable pupils' provision**

- Year 7 pupils will be taught in room 7 (enter through the door closest to the Year 7 yard).
- Year 8 and 10 pupils will be taught in the technology area (enter through the door which was the Year 11 entrance last term, close to science labs).

- Year 9 and 11 pupils will be taught in the LRC (enter through the main door to the junior block, which was Year 8 entrance last term)
- When the school opens its doors at 8.30 am, pupils should make their way to their designated room for registration. If they arrive before 8.30 am they must wait outside the main entrance in the open area between the two blocks. Please maintain the 2 metre social distancing rule. Pupils should wear full school uniform.
- Pupils should bring their own headphones to enable them to engage in live lessons without being distracted by other pupils around them. We will provide ear phones for those pupils who forget their own, but these must be sanitised after use.
- In pupil areas, wherever possible the 2 metre social distancing rule will apply.
- At break time, pupils housed in the junior block will be able to access the junior dining room. Toast and Cheese Muffins will be available for purchase (from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January)
- Pupils housed in the senior block will access the senior dining room at break time. The same breakfast facilities will be available (from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January)
- We will still operate a split lunch. Period 4a - Year 8 and 10 pupils will bring their packed lunch to the senior dining room. A limited amount of cakes, biscuits and drinks will also be available for purchase. Following cleaning by the kitchen staff, in period 4b – Year 7, 9 and 11 pupils will be brought from the junior building to take their lunch in the **senior dining room**. Again, limited items will be available for purchase. Still bring a packed lunch.
- Please remind all pupils that masks must be worn in corridors and to the dining rooms until food is being consumed. If pupils approach the serving hatch to buy food items, they must have their mask on.

### Mass Testing

Shortly, I will write to parents to explain further the requirement for schools to provide Lateral Flow Testing on site. Initially, I will seek permission from the parents and carers of pupils who are attending school during the lockdown period to test their child in the event that they are identified as a close contact of a pupil who has tested positive for the virus. Please be assured that no child will be tested before full information has been sent to parents and they have given their consent for testing to take place.

I wish you all well as we enter this latest challenging period in a series of challenging periods. We remain committed to educating our pupils to the best of our ability and to supporting the families which make up our strong Catholic community. Please do not hesitate to contact me at school should you wish to discuss any concerns you may have.

Yours sincerely,



Mr C Horrocks

Headteacher