

All Hallows Catholic High School



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Headteacher: Mr C Horrocks B.A.

Monday 1st March 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

I am writing to you following the Government's announcement on Monday 22nd February, that schools can begin the process of opening to all children **from** Monday March 8th. Please accept my apology for the length and detail of the information contained in this letter, however, it is necessary to communicate in full the plan which will be enacted to ensure the safe return of all pupils to school. As I am sure you appreciate, schools are having to adapt to Government advice and expectations at short notice and we are doing our best to do so. Due to the level of detail required, I thought it more appropriate to communicate in writing rather than through the form of a Headteacher Vlog, which I have been using recently.

Within the announcement on Monday, there were a number of expectations placed on schools, and on parents, carers and pupils, which I would like to outline prior to everyone's return.

A Phased Return from 8th March

It was outlined on Monday 22nd February that, upon return, all pupils whose parents have given consent must undertake three Covid -19 Lateral Flow tests on school premises. The tests are to take place, wherever possible, between 3-5 days apart, per test; once the tests have taken place all students concerned will be provided with a quantity of home test kits which should be used twice weekly. The distribution of the home test kits can only take place after pupils have taken three tests in school. We sent a ParentMail on Wednesday 24th March, attached to which was a consent form, which we requested you should return as soon as possible. I would like to thank so many of you for your prompt responses and to urge those who have not yet replied to do so, as the forms are vital for effective planning. Please follow this <https://forms.gle/GnxJkWdeZXR1XSFZ7>

Further to this, the instruction is that students who have given consent can only be allowed into lessons after their first test has proven negative. As a result, for logistical purposes, we will have to stagger the return to school for pupils in the week beginning 8th March in order for us to be able to carry out testing and process the results. Guidance further states that schools should prioritise the return of Years 10 and 11.

As a result of the above instructions, we have taken the decision to ask all pupils for whom we have consent to test, to attend school at an allocated date/time. Once pupils arrive, they will be tested and asked to return home for the remainder of the day. All students for whom the test is negative will then be able to attend school the next day and follow their 'normal' timetable. Any student who tests positive will subsequently have to follow Government directives and isolate for 10 days, alongside all other members of their household.

As we will have to test such large numbers of pupils per day in the first instance, 'holding' them in isolation until we receive a test result, it is not possible to allow all pupils to attend on Monday 8th March. Therefore, we have developed a timetable of test times and return dates which will ensure that students return to school as safely as possible and with the minimum of disruption, whilst still ensuring appropriate infection controls are maintained. To enable us to bring pupils back to school as soon as possible, we are asking that Year 11 and Year 10 pupils attend school by appointment later this week to take their first tests prior to returning to class on Monday 8th March. This will also assist us to administer the two further tests which will be necessary for pupils before Friday 19th March. The timetable is below:

Schedule for Tests 1, 2 and 3

	Thurs 4 th	Fri 5 th	Mon 8 th	Tue 9 th	Wed 10 th	Thurs 11 th	Fri 12 th	Mon 15 th	Tue 16 th	Wed 17 th
Year 11	TEST 1				TEST 2			TEST 3		
Year 10		TEST 1			TEST 2			TEST 3		
Year 9				TEST 1			TEST 2			TEST 3
Year 8				TEST 1			TEST 2			TEST 3
Year 7			TEST 1			TEST 2			TEST 3	

Pupil Testing Schedule for Test 1

YEAR GROUP	TEST	RETURN TO SCHOOL
Year 11	Thursday am 4 th March Return home after test	Monday 8 th March
Year 10	Friday am 5 th March Return home after test	Monday 8 th March
Year 7	Monday am 8 th March Return home after test	Tuesday 9 th March
Year 8 - AM Year 9 - PM	Tuesday 9 th March Return home after test	Wednesday 10 th March Wednesday 10 th March

Appointment Times for Pupils Arriving for Test 1

* Please note that pupils should attend at the correct time and should return home immediately after the test. Parents bringing their children by car will be permitted to come onto the car park closest to the 'house' in the school grounds. Please be mindful of the Covid-19 health and safety protocols in operation and remain in your cars until your child returns from the test. Pupils arriving by bus or on foot should leave immediately after their test and proceed home directly. **Pupils do not need to wear school uniform when attending for test 1.**

YEAR 11 – Test Appointment

Thursday 4th March - AM

9AM– 10AM
Bernadette & Catherine

10AM– 11AM
Francis & John

11AM– 12PM
Margaret & Vincent

YEAR 10 – Test Appointment

Friday 5th March - AM

9AM– 10AM
Bernadette & Catherine

10AM– 11AM
Francis & John

11AM– 12PM
Margaret & Vincent

YEAR 7 – Test Appointment

Monday 8th March - AM

9AM– 10AM
Bernadette & Catherine

10AM– 11AM
Francis & John

11AM– 12PM
Margaret & Vincent

<p>YEAR 8 – Test Appointment</p> <p>Tuesday 9th March - AM</p>
<p>9AM– 10AM Bernadette & Catherine</p> <p>10AM– 11AM Francis & John</p> <p>11AM– 12PM Margaret & Vincent</p>
<p>YEAR 9 – Test Appointment</p> <p>Tuesday 9th March - <u>PM</u></p>
<p>12PM– 1PM Bernadette & Catherine</p> <p>1PM– 2PM Francis & John</p> <p>2PM– 3PM Margaret & Vincent</p>

Pupils must only attend for testing if school has been provided with consent to test; any student for whom we do not have consent must remain at home until their designated day of return to school. Remote learning will continue to be provided for all pupils until their day of return. Please be aware, however, that all school staff will be on site from Monday 8th March to support the test and return timetable and, as a result, ‘live’ lessons may be limited for this very short period.

Subsequent tests for all pupils (test numbers 2 & 3) will be carried out whilst students are in school; they will be removed from lesson for a short time and returned once tests have been carried out.

As it is vital for infection and ‘bubble’ control, please only send your child to school on the allocated day and at the allocated time both for testing and a return to lessons. Pupils should access the school site from their usual entrance (ie. the designated entrance used in the Autumn Term) and go immediately to their designated area. When pupils attend school for their first Lateral Flow Test in accordance with the time slots above, **they should arrive through their designated entrance and make their way immediately to the external entrance / exit to the Arts Theatre which opens onto the senior yard.** They will be greeted by staff at this point and will be escorted to the new sports hall which has been converted into our testing centre. Once all pupils are back in lesson on Wednesday 10th March we will administer tests 2 and 3 by sending pupils from class at designated times.

'Vulnerable' and Critical Worker Pupils

Pupils who are within the above categories and whom have attended school throughout Lockdown should continue to attend as previously. As with all other students they should enter through their designated entrances from Monday 8th March and go immediately to their designated areas; from here they will be organised accordingly. They will be taught in their vulnerable and critical worker 'bubbles' until they can be reintegrated to their Year group on the designated return date.

Pupils who are in the above categories will be tested during the afternoon of Thursday 4th and Friday 5th March once the Year 10 and 11 pupils have returned home after their tests.

Due to the logistical challenges presented by organising testing and a phased return, school will not be in a position to accept any new students under either of these categories from Tuesday 1st March.

School Buses

Our understanding is that the school bus service will run as 'normal' from Monday 8th March. Pupils who begin to use the service once more, beginning on the day they are due to restart school, must continue to follow all protocols regarding the wearing of face coverings and hand sanitisation.

School Uniform

We expect all pupils to wear full school uniform on return to school. As arrangements will be very similar to those in the autumn term and many subjects will still be delivered in a restricted way, we will continue to allow pupils to wear PE kit to school on the days they have PE. Please ensure that pupils do not replace blazers with hoodies and that regulation school tracksuit bottoms are worn, rather than those which are branded with logos of fashion retailers. It may be the case that during lockdown, pupils have adapted their hairstyles. Please ensure that pupils return with appropriate hairstyles and that they follow the school rules regarding jewellery and piercings. We are excited about being able to welcome pupils back on March 8th and would not want to spoil the atmosphere by having to involve ourselves in needless negative conversations about uniform standards.

Unfortunately, the impact of the pandemic has resulted in some of our uniform suppliers having to cease trading. Our uniform can now be ordered online from the company Trutex. Please follow the link and instructions on our website to place uniform orders.

Catch-up and Consolidation Day

I am sure that you recall that we had planned for another 'catch-up and Consolidation Day' on Friday March 5th. We had anticipated that there would be much to organise in the lead up to a full reopening and, in light of the amount of planning and preparation to be done, we are pleased that we now have this time set aside for both pupils and staff to prepare fully for reopening. Please ensure that this day is used to good effect by pupils in readiness for their return date. Please note, Year 10 pupils will be attending school at some point during that day to take their first test.

Infection Control Protocols

On the pupils' return to school we will continue to implement all infection control measures which were in place for the entirety of the autumn term. These include increased sanitation of desks and equipment, the use of additional hand sanitisation points, designated entrances and exits and areas for break and lunchtimes and allocated seating in lessons. Please familiarise yourself with the protocols and procedures once again by revisiting the appropriate document on the school website. This can be found by following this link [All-Hallows-Reopening-Guide-Sept-2020.pdf](#) All pupils will be expected to follow all appropriate protocols and procedures on return to school.

Face Coverings

In addition to students being expected to wear face coverings in all communal indoor areas where social distancing is not possible they will now be expected to wear face coverings in all classrooms, throughout the lesson. This is to support further infection control and will be reviewed, by the Government, at the end of the Spring Term. We issued two face coverings to all staff and pupils during the autumn term to ensure the quality and effectiveness of the item and to establish a degree of uniformity. We would prefer our pupils to wear the face coverings already provided, however, if they no longer have them, they must source a plain black alternative. Any pupil who should be wearing a face covering and is not will be required to purchase one from the School Office at a cost of 50p.

As has been outlined in a previous communication, should parents request a specific exemption for wearing a face covering for a child on medical grounds, they must contact the relevant Learning Manager to ask that their child be issued with a 'green exemption card' which they can show to limit the chances that they may be challenged for not wearing a face covering.

Test and Trace

When all pupils do begin to return to school from Monday 8th March we will implement, once again, our internal test and trace system. This means that any pupil who has been identified as a close or direct contact of an individual who has tested positive for Covid-19 will be expected to self-isolate, in line with Government guidance. Students who are required to self-isolate will have remote learning provided, as previously. In this situation school cannot always guarantee 'live' lessons, due to the fact that teachers will be in school following their 'normal' timetable, however we will endeavour to do so when possible and practical.

Students or Family Members with Covid-19 Symptoms

We ask that all members of the school community continue to follow Government guidelines and do not send students to school if they, or a member of their household, is displaying symptoms of Covid-19. Anyone who displays symptoms should take a test and all members of the household self-isolate until the result is confirmed. Please inform school of any child who has tested positive; this includes when using the home tests which will be provided once testing in school is completed.

In conclusion, I thank you for taking the time to read through this detailed document. Alongside the announcement of the return to school from March 8th, we have also been discussing other pressing matters, such as the awarding of qualifications to this year's Year 11 pupils and our 'catch-up' programme for those pupils who may have slipped behind during this period of remote learning. More information will be provided in the coming days and weeks on these and other related matters. In the meantime, I thank you for your continued support and hope that you stay safe and well. I remain available to contact should you wish to email or speak to me about any of the details covered in this letter.

Yours sincerely,



Mr C Horrocks
Headteacher