


# All Hallows Catholic High School



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Headteacher: Mr C Horrocks B.A.

Dear Parents,

## Newsletter Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January

### Clinically Vulnerable Pupil

We are currently managing the return to school of a particularly clinically vulnerable pupil. We have been asked to provide parents with the following information from the pupil's assigned NHS nurse:

Dear Parents / Carers

#### **Measles, Chickenpox and Shingles.**

Please may we ask for your co-operation in an important matter.

One of our pupils is receiving medical treatment which means they are immunocompromised and puts them at risk if they are exposed to measles, chickenpox or shingles.

Please let us know immediately if your child is suspected of having any of these illnesses.

Your child is not at any risk whatsoever from this situation. However, the health and well-being of our pupil who is at risk does depend on the co-operation of all other parents and we hope you can support us in keeping the pupil safe.

### Covid-19 Update

I would like to thank staff, pupils and parents for their help in ensuring that the spring term has got underway, despite the many challenges the school has faced since returning on Tuesday. The school's situation closely mirrors that seen nationally as we continue to cope with both pupil and staff absence. At the moment, despite the strain on staffing, we are able to keep all year groups in school receiving face-to-face teaching. We have discussed contingency plans should we have to move some year groups to online learning and I would like to assure parents that we will inform them in good time should we feel the need to implement those plans. We will continue to do everything within our power to keep all pupils in school.

From Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January, rules on testing for the virus will change. Parents and Carers should note the following.

**Government Guidance:** From 11 January in England, people who receive positive lateral flow device (LFD) test results for coronavirus (COVID-19) will be required to self-isolate immediately and won't be required to take a confirmatory PCR test.

This is a temporary measure while COVID-19 rates remain high across the UK. Whilst levels of COVID-19 are high, the vast majority of people with positive LFD results can be confident that they have COVID-19.

Lateral flow tests are taken by people who do not have COVID-19 symptoms. Anyone who develops 1 of the 3 main COVID-19 symptoms should stay at home and self-isolate and take a PCR test. They must self-isolate if they get a positive test result, even if they have had a recent negative lateral flow test – **these rules have not changed.**

The new approach reflects similar changes made this time last year in January 2021, when there was also a high prevalence of infection meaning it was highly likely that a positive LFD COVID-19 result was a true positive. This meant confirmatory PCRs were temporarily paused and reintroduced in March 2021 following a reduction in prevalence.

The UK's testing programme is the biggest in Europe with over 400 million tests carried out since the start of the pandemic. Since mid-December, 100,000 more PCR booking slots have been made available per day and capacity continues to be rapidly expanded, with delivery capacity doubled to 900,000 PCR and LFD test kits a day.

Under this new approach, anyone who receives a positive LFD test result should [report their result on GOV.UK](#) and must self-isolate immediately but will not need to take a follow-up PCR test.

After reporting a positive LFD test result, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace so that their contacts can be traced and must continue to self-isolate.

In line with the reduced self-isolation approach announced on 22 December, anyone who tests positive will be able to leave self-isolation 7 days after the date of their initial positive test **if they receive 2 negative LFD results, 24 hours apart, on days 6 and 7.**

Yours sincerely,



Mr C Horrocks  
Headteacher