



ST AUGUSTINE'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM

DEVELOPING THE WHOLE PERSON

Ref: Parental Bulletin

23rd September 2021

Dear Parent/Carers,

I am writing to inform you that we have seen an increase in the number of positive cases of Covid-19 both within the school and local community. As a consequence, I requested a meeting with Public Health to examine in detail the specific positive cases and any links or patterns. We reviewed the current control measures that we are taking - which were fully endorsed - and additional measures were recommended to us which we will now implement in line with the school's 'Outbreak Plan'. The school remains open and providing your child remains well, they can continue to attend the setting as normal.

Additional Control Measures:

The following measures will be implemented from Thursday 23rd September and have been discussed at length with both staff and students.

1. **Face Masks/Coverings are now required around the school and in classrooms in addition to the school buses.**

This is for all pupils and staff who do not have a medical exception. Staff will be permitted to remove their masks in class when 2 metres or more from pupils. Please ensure that your son/daughter arrives to school each day with a face mask (we can supply a small number this week).

Please note that the government expects and recommends that face masks are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces including dedicated transport to school, apart from those who are exempt.

2. **Assemblies/Collective Worship will be moved to the Sports Hall**

Our external doors will be opened to allow good ventilation; the sports hall also has more room for social distancing.

3. **Cleaning of hands**

Students will be reminded of the necessity to clean hands regularly. As students enter and exit classes they will use hand gel. Can students please bring in their own hand gel from Monday 27th September.

4. **Track and Trace**

Last year we were praised for our track and trace system. We will now work in tandem with the NHS system so that we can increase the speed of response

Existing Control Measures which Remain in Place:

1. One-way systems around the school.
2. Parents' evenings to remain on line via school cloud
3. Enhanced cleaning and well-ventilated spaces.
4. Remote learning for students not attending school.
5. Public Events with Covid secure risk assessments eg Open Evening

What you can do to help us:

1. Please ensure that your children are undertaking the twice weekly LFT home testing programme and recoding the results. Please note that the full 30 minutes should be given to check the results – the positive line can take much longer to appear than the control line on the lateral flow device.
2. Do not send children into school when they are unwell or exhibit any of the signs of covid. If they do, please [book them a PCR test](#).
3. If your child is Critically extremely vulnerable then please inform your Head of Year so that we can put in the correct risk assessment.

Close Contacts

For all close contacts we will be strongly recommending that they undertake a PCR test. Given there is a possibility that this can happen for any pupil you may want to consider [pre-ordering a home PCR test kit](#).

Looking Ahead

Whilst we are hopeful that the additional measures we are taking will be successful, trying to predict what will happen is not easy at this time. I will obviously keep you updated on a regular basis.

If you have any immediate or urgent concerns, please contact your son/daughters relevant Head of Year. There continues to be additional support for those self-isolating or vulnerable as a result of COVID-19 can be accessed through Here2Help: <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help> or 01905 768053 then press option 3. The Here2Help opening hours are Monday to Thursday 9.00am to 5.00pm and Friday 9.00am to 4.30pm.

Thank you in advance for your all support.

Yours faithfully,



G T O'Connor BSc (Hons) NPQH
Principal