



ST AUGUSTINE'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM

DEVELOPING THE WHOLE PERSON

Ref: Parental Bulletin

18th September 2020

Dear Parent/Carers,

Former Prime Minister Harold Wilson famously said “a week is a long time in politics.”. With this in mind we are preparing for all eventualities ensuring that our children are at the centre of all we do.

We have now completed our initial parents' evenings for Y10, Y11 and Y13. The main messages coming out are ones of reassurance that the students are well ahead of the game and joy to back to teaching. Over the past week, I have conducted Head of Department meetings with my team and I am pleased to report that they have all confirmed that the students of Y11 are well on track with their studies. Many thanks for all you have done in supporting your children and the school; the kind messages and notes to staff are really appreciated. It is pleasing to see that our Covid-19 plans and policies for students returning, of good training into new safety routines have been well received by all and as a consequence we are now spending more time focusing and enjoying the curriculum. That said when looking at the wider picture of the rising number of cases of Covid around the country I would appreciate you running through the following messages that we are giving in school:

- The importance of staying away from school if there is illness associated with Covid symptoms which are: dry cough, loss of taste/smell and/or raised temperature
- The importance of daily temperature checks at home.
- The importance of being organised and having good systems in place at home to ensure students arrive in school on time, in the correct uniform and completely prepared for the day ahead, including having all the necessary equipment with them.
- The importance of each pupil taking responsibility for their own safety; washing their hands regularly, keeping socially distanced wherever possible, having good mask etiquette and essentially using their common sense
- When using public transport and our school bus services, students **must sit** in their year group zones **and** wear a mask throughout the journey.
- Particularly for older pupils, the importance of not taking unnecessary risks and following all government safety guidelines out of school. Please do not host any parties or large gatherings in your homes or allow your children to attend such an event elsewhere.
- Please see the table below which outlines action to take:

Situation	Should my son/daughter isolate?
1. They have a runny nose, sore throat without fever and/or mild cold, but are otherwise well	No (attend School as normal)
2. They have tested positive for Covid 19	Yes (for 10 days, +48hr after temperature resolves)
3. They have developed symptoms (dry cough, loss of smell, raised temperature) and not tested yet	Yes (until you test negative, if the test is positive, see 2)

4. They have been told they are a close contact of a case	Yes (for 14 days, unless they develop symptoms and test positive, then see 2)
5. A household member has developed symptoms and has not been tested yet.	Yes (until they test negative, if the test is positive see 2)
6. A household member has been told to isolate as a close contact	No (be vigilant, if they start to feel unwell you will need to isolate until they test and it's negative, if positive see 2)
7. They visited someone within 2 metres who has now been told to isolate as a close contact	No (The person was not symptomatic, if within 48 hours of the visit they develop symptoms and test positive see 2)
8. They are a close contact of someone who tested positive, they were tested, it was negative	Yes (for 14 days, unless you develop symptoms and test positive, then see 2)
9. A sibling is in another class and needs to self-isolate due to a Covid 19 positive case in their class. Your child is in a different class	No (They are not themselves a close contact of a positive case, if their sibling develops symptoms they will need to isolate)
10. A friend/relative is unwell, my child saw them 2 days ago	Maybe (Need to check if the relative had Covid-19 symptoms, a positive test result and whether they were a close contact. If they were none of those then No. If they test positive, then follow number 2)

Given the possibility of a lockdown, it is wise to prepare the new students and parents to the school to our well-established Home Learning policy. This has been introduced to the students in school and I have attached a copy for parents to read and talk through with their children.

Proposed Conversion of Trinity Secondary School and admission into Our Lady of Lourdes MAC

At the start of July, a communication was circulated to all parents and staff advising that the Board of the Multi-Academy had agreed, in principle, to the plan for Trinity Catholic School in Leamington Spa to join our growing MAC family in January 2021. We now wish to advise that the formal consultation process on the proposal has recently commenced. Should you wish to comment on the published proposals please complete the online form on the following online link:

<https://sites.google.com/cwscsoventry.co.uk/trinityacademyconsultation/your-view>

(there is a drop-down list to choose from, as to stakeholder category - we suggest you use the "Other" category option).

New Website

We have been developing a new website over the last few weeks to facilitate navigation and represent the school more fully. Initial evaluations from parents have been extremely positive, so please take a few minutes to browse; should you have any queries or comments, please contact Anne Eggins at egginsa@sta.lourdesmac.org.uk. We have broad shoulders and would really welcome your feedback.

<https://saintsa.co.uk/>

<https://www.st-augustines.worcs.sch.uk/>

We have been advised that the weblinks take a while to embed and become established; we will be keeping a close eye on this over the next week.

Assessment Weeks

Assessment weeks are on the horizon for Y12, week beginning 5th October. These will focus upon ensuring that students are on the correct pathway for the sixth form. Y13 will be undertaking their assessments, week beginning 12th October and will focus upon providing students with feedback on progress as well as providing grades for UCAS applications.

Catholic Life - Sponsored Walk

Normally at this time, the whole school would be preparing for our annual sponsored walk around Morton Stanley Park. This whole school event is always eagerly anticipated by students and staff alike but sadly, due to the current situation this cannot take place this year. However, there are still charities that desperately need our help and so we are still maintaining our focus on raising money for those organisations who rely on external support. Sadly approximately 42,000 people in the UK have lost their lives to COVID 19 and some of us within our school community have been affected by this – we want to honour these people. What are we doing?

- In Core PE lessons, students will be completing a “Miles Challenge” which will involve completing a marked course on the school field with the aim to walk, jog or run as many miles as they can as a year group. Students will be asking for sponsorship for every mile that they complete.

This will take place in all Core PE lessons between 28th September – 9th October. Students will still arrive in school wearing PE Kit as usual and their PE teacher will guide them through the challenge. There will be a link on Parent Pay for all Sponsor Money to be paid and each form will make their own Just Giving page.

The charities we are supporting are:

- Y9 will be supporting [St Vincent De Paul Society](#)
- Y10 will be supporting [Mary's Meals](#)
- Y11, Y12 and Y13 will be supporting the Mike Dean Trust – Mike was our Chair of Governors and he sadly passed away last year having supported our school for over 20 years. His family set up a trust to help disadvantaged young people in our local area.

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully



G T O'Connor BSc (Hons) NPQH
Principal

Attachments:

Home Learning Policy