



St. George's Catholic School

23rd December 2020

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

You will be aware that since my last correspondence some days ago, further developments have been announced by the government, which will necessitate a change to the return day for some year groups following the Christmas holiday. Therefore, Year 11, 12, and 13 will now return a day later on Tuesday 5th January allowing staff to plan for new Covid-19 testing arrangements. If parents are key workers without alternative care arrangements, they can apply for their children to be educated in school as normal for the first week of term (see attachment). All other year groups must access remote learning (via Teams) from Tuesday 5th January to Friday 8th January prior to returning on Monday, January 11th. Timetables will be made available on our website. Any pupils or parents having problems accessing remote learning can email the school using parentcontact@stgeorgesrc.org

The DfE has made these changes to allow schools to plan and implement rapid-results testing. This should serve to safeguard the health of the teaching workforce and keep as many staff members and pupils in school schools and colleges as possible. Frequent tests should help identify asymptomatic cases which make up a third of all cases and limit the spread of the virus. Hopefully, testing, along with other infection prevention and control measures (including rigorous adherence to social distancing) gives pupils a better chance of continuity of face-to-face education.

With a phased approach beginning in January, we hope that testing will be made available to all members of staff and all pupils and students. More information will follow on the details of the testing and if we are able to implement any testing in the first week of the term for lower school pupils as well, we will let you know and advise you of appointment times.

Best wishes for a peaceful and safe Christmas.

Yours sincerely

Mr Cathal Gregory
Head of School

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