



St. George's Catholic School

23rd October 2020

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

I hope that this letter finds you and your families well. I wish to begin by thanking you most sincerely for all your support in adhering to the new measures that we have had to put in place during the Coronavirus Pandemic. It is truly delightful to see how well the students have adjusted to this new situation and it is evident, given the very high student attendance rate – it has remained at around 95% since term began – that the students, like the staff are delighted to be back in school.

Can I extend a particular thanks to the parents of the Year 11 and Sixth Form students for encouraging their son/daughter to attend the additional lessons provided during Period 6 each school day and on Saturdays. I look forward to seeing many of them in school for additional revision sessions during the half- term. Please be advised that Year 11 students will have their first round of GCSE mock examinations on their return to school in November.

As you will be aware from the recent messages from school, it is now mandatory for all secondary school students from Year 7 and above to wear a suitable mask while in communal areas, such as corridors. Many thanks for ensuring that your child has been equipped with one. Can I ask that you consider purchasing for your child a reusable mask in either plain black or navy, as it is less likely that this will break. It can then be washed regularly and reused.

A slight change will be made to the staggered end of school that is currently in place to allow Year 9 students to remain in the last lesson of the day a little longer. So, the new timings will be as follows:

Year 7	15.10
Year 8	14.55
Year 9	15.05
Year 10	15.00
Year 11	15.10 (Friday only as they will remain in school for period 6 from Monday-Thursday, which finishes at 16.10)

Having reviewed the canteen provision over the past half term, we are now in a position to offer all students some access to hot food in a staggered manner over the course of a week. Year 7 can avail of this option on a Monday, Year 8, on a Tuesday, Year 9, on a Wednesday and Year 9 and 10 on a Thursday and Friday respectively.

We have just carried out our first set of assessments on all students, the results of which will be forwarded to you as the Autumn Grid Grade. Some catch-up revision sessions will be arranged for selected students in each year group in English and Mathematics to provide additional scaffolding for

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those who have been identified as falling significantly behind as a result of the extended lockdown period out of school.

A Target Setting Day will be arranged for Monday November 16th for students from Year 7-11, when appointments will be made for a parent to attend – observing social distance - with their child to discuss suitable, personalised targets to assist with their progress in school. For Year 8 students, this will also replace the Parents Evening that had originally been scheduled for later in the term. Teacher reports will be provided for these students on this occasion.

I will conclude this letter by re-iterating a number of things to you. Given the possible congestion on public transport, we are encouraging our students to cycle and walk to school where possible. We ask those who do so to do take particular care on the roads. It is advised that cyclists wear a face mask to reduce the impact of pollution and to ensure that a safety helmet is worn. Bicycles should be in a roadworthy condition and have a lock so that they may be stored securely on the school site. The school will not accept responsibility for bicycles stored on the school premises.

Again, in line with the government guidance at this time, a strong emphasis will be placed on following the recommended hygiene practices. All students will be encouraged to regularly wash their hands/ use hand sanitisers and not to share any equipment such as pens or pencils etc. They must also continue to walk silently in corridors and to ensure that they observe appropriate distance when crossing over with other year groups as well as when queueing for toilets and other facilities. When using computers or changing desks, it will be protocol for them to wipe down the area beforehand using anti-bacterial wipes, which will be provided.

If your child is displaying any symptoms of Covid-19, such as a cough, headache, increased temperature, loss of taste or smell or a new rash, it is your responsibility to ensure that they remain at home. Should any student exhibit any of these symptoms, they will be promptly sent home. It is imperative that the school is able to make contact with you, so please ensure that your contact details are fully up to date. The school undertakes to provide test and trace support so that your child and other members of your household can be tested quickly.

Should the school request a meeting with you, it is likely that this will take place over an online medium rather than face to face, thus avoiding the risk of transmission.

If anyone in your household is shielding or in the clinically vulnerable category, we would be grateful if you could pass this information on to the school, so that we can consider ways to ensure that additional precautions are put in place where possible. It is particularly important that you update the school if your child has any underlying medical conditions.

In the meantime, I hope that you will have a restful and peaceful half-term break and look forward to working with you again over the coming half-term.

Yours sincerely

Mr Cathal Gregory
Head of School

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