



SACRED HEART
CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL

2 March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Following our [letter yesterday](#) outlining the arrangements for your child to have their first COVID-19 tests in school, please find some additional information about our return to school plans in which we are aiming to create the right balance between the importance of getting pupils back into the classroom and doing this in a way that is as safe as possible for everyone.

For clarification, the government has advised that all pupils should be offered asymptomatic testing. This process is voluntary and it is not a requirement that pupils have a negative test result before attending school on the 8th March. **For the safety of our school community, I would urge you all to consent to this important safety measure.**

We are taking this opportunity to raise standards, in terms of our expectations for our pupils, this means being **properly equipped**, and **behaving appropriately** are of paramount importance, please read the following information so that you are aware of our expectations and you can help us to reinforce them.

Precautions and face coverings

The government has now recommended that face coverings should be worn in classrooms as well as in corridors and communal areas. However, this does not apply in situations where a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise such as PE. We would appreciate your support in ensuring your child continues to bring a face covering to school. Please give your child a sealable plastic bag to keep their face mask safe and clean when they are not wearing it.

We will continue to take precautions in line with DFE guidance such as:

- ensuring everyone at the school cleans their hands more often than usual
- ensuring good respiratory hygiene, by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces more often
- minimising contact and maintaining distance where possible

You must not send your child to school if they have one or more of the coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or if you have someone in your household who does. We would ask parents and carers to support us by engaging with the NHS Test and Trace process so that cases can be identified and action taken.

Headteacher: Dr P Caldwell

Sacred Heart Catholic Secondary School, Mersey Road, Redcar, TS10 1PJ

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Attendance

From Monday 8th March school attendance will be mandatory. This means that the legal duty on parents of children of compulsory school age will apply. It is vital that children return to school as quickly as possible for their educational progress, wellbeing and wider development.

Where shielding advice remains in place for your child, it is important that you communicate this information to enquiries@sacredheart.npcat.org.uk so we can ensure remote learning continues. We would ask for evidence from your child's doctor or other medical professional, to support this requirement.

School work completed during lockdown

We are very pleased with the engagement of pupils in their live lessons this lockdown and appreciate how hard it has been for you as parents to facilitate your child's learning whilst working from home. The work your child is doing as part of their remote learning is being checked and assessed by your child's teacher and will be used to inform part of the evidence used to assess your child's progress this year. There is no need to print a hard copy of this work, unless the teacher has specifically asked for this to be done.

On their return to school we will be reinforcing our high expectations around the presentation standards in books and we will expect your son/daughter to do their best to continue to show their teachers that they take pride in their work. Please continue to support us in this standard as if your child's teacher does not think that your child is producing their best work, they will ask your son/daughter to repeat the work to a higher standard.

As part of our evaluation process of our remote learning provision we would like to ask for your feedback. Please click on the following link to complete our parent survey:
<https://forms.gle/io6wCmdMBgKiyZQn6>

Equipment

Please can you ensure that your child has a **school bag** and the following equipment for their first day back: **planner, pen, pencil, ruler and calculator**. Form tutors will be checking for this equipment and if your child does not have what they require they will be able to access our new equipment shop. **If they do not have the correct equipment they will be given a lunchtime detention.** The exception to this is for calculators, we have some calculators we can lend pupils, but they will not receive a detention until after Easter, to let pupils adapt to this expectation.

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As part of the home school agreement signed by parents/carers it outlines the important role parents/carers play in supporting their child's education. Part of this agreement says "see that my child attends school regularly, on time, suitably equipped and dressed in full school uniform." The full agreement can be found on the school website or by clicking [here](#).

Uniform

Our uniform is the strongest visual representation we have of our high standards at Sacred Heart, and your child is expected to attend school in full school uniform. Please click here for our full school uniform requirements [School Uniform | Sacred Heart Catholic Secondary](#) We do have a stock of trousers, skirts, blazers and ties to sell if you require any uniform for your child. Please contact the main office to arrange a time to come in to purchase what you need.

If your child arrives at school with any incorrect uniform they will be offered spare uniform to borrow for the day. Failure to accept the school uniform offered will result in sanctions being applied to your child, please do your part in supporting the high standards in our school by ensuring your child leaves your home in full uniform.

Hoodies are not part of our school uniform and are not allowed in school.

Ventilation

To increase natural air flow and aid in the prevention of spreading the virus, windows will be open in classrooms. This will mean that your child may be colder than usual in the school building. To compensate for this change in temperature your child will be able to wear additional layers of clothing under their school shirt or a jumper underneath their blazer if they are cold. **Hoodies are not part of our school uniform and are not allowed in school.**

Arrangements for Monday 8th March

School will start, as usual, at 8.25am.

As part of our reintegration to school please inform your child that instead of going straight to lessons they will go to their Tutor Room for Period 1 and Period 2. This will form part of their induction back into school and allow your child to have some pastoral time with their Form Tutor to re-familiarise them with school expectations and routines and to ask any questions they may have about the return to school. This day will offer a range of activities which will support the wellbeing of pupils and provide a social, spiritual and emotional bridge between lockdown and re-engaging with peers and the school environment.

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If your child is feeling anxious about returning to school please contact enquiries@sacredheart.npcat.org.uk to arrange a telephone appointment with your child's School Achievement Leader or Pastoral Leader.

Year 7 (Mrs Lilley and Miss Jackson)

Year 8 (Miss McCarthy and Mr Keegans)

Year 9 (Mrs Ramsdale and Mr Keegans)

Year 10 (Mrs Housam-Bennet and Mr Robinson)

Year 11 (Mrs Doyle and Mr Robinson)

SEND Support

The SEND Department has reviewed the return to school arrangements to ensure there is good coverage for all pupils requiring support. During the first week, some pupils will also be given additional support with any anxieties or questions using social stories, based upon returning to school and the government road-mapping around education. If you do have any further concerns or questions, please contact the SEND department.

If your child is hearing impaired, the classroom teacher will not be wearing a mask when talking at the front of the classroom to aid with lip-reading, as per the government guidance.

What should you do if your child is self-isolating?

A small number of pupils will not be able to attend school as they are following public health advice to self-isolate because they:

- have symptoms or have had a positive test result
- live with someone who has symptoms or has tested positive and are a household contact
- are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19)

If they are unable to attend school because they are complying with public health advice, we will be able to immediately offer your child access to remote education. We will monitor your child's engagement with remote learning via Google Classroom. Where they are not able to attend school as a member of their household is following clinical and/or public health advice, the absence will not be penalised. Please contact school to let us know the circumstances of the absence.

Examinations for Year 11 pupils

As you are aware, the government announced that there will be no formal exam season this year and that pupils' grades will be determined by the school. We will send separate correspondence to all Year 11 parents updating you on the plans for grading as soon as we have more information. **However, it is more important than ever that pupils continue to complete all the work they are set by their teachers** as this will contribute significantly to the grades awarded in the summer.

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Headphones

From Monday 8th March your child will no longer be required to bring in headphones to use for online lessons.

I appreciate that there is a lot of information in this letter, and I hope you can see that we are working to get your child back to school as quickly and safely as possible.

Finally, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and patience. We are excited by the imminent return of your child to school and we are looking forward to Sacred Heart returning to the vibrant learning community that we know it to be.

Warm regards,

Dr P Caldwell
Headteacher, Sacred Heart.

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