



St Mary's Catholic School

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where everyone can succeed



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Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your families are having a lovely summer.

As promised, later this week we will be in touch regarding our updated school routines and expectations for September, in line with current government guidance. Miss Largue, Director of Student Support, will write to you with this information. It will cover key detail to support our students to get off to the best possible start to the new school year. We are really looking forward to welcoming back our students to the school, including welcoming our new Year 7 students.

I know that Miss Largue has already been in touch regarding the plans for the asymptomatic testing of students, with students coming into school for their test on the day before their first full day in school to ensure that we can welcome and settle the students back into school on their first day without any disruption at all. Therefore, the students first full day in school will be as previously outlined:

- **Tuesday 7th September 2021-** new Year 7 and Year 12 students
- **Wednesday 8th September 2021-** Year 8, Year 11 and Year 13 students
- **Thursday 9th September 2021-** Year 9 and Year 10 students

As outlined in my letter before the break, government guidance published in July and further updated in August, outlines the relaxing of many restrictions related to COVID-19 in schools. This currently includes an end to all social distancing, an end to year group bubbles and zones and no face masks recommended in classrooms or communal areas in school. In the letter that follows, we will outline further detail regarding the updated guidance and our updated school routines. As you will know, there are also significant changes to government isolation guidance, for both double-vaccinated adults and for all children aged under 18 years, meaning that close contacts of a COVID-19 positive case do not have to isolate unless they have symptoms. This means there should be much less student and staff isolation and disruption to learning this school year. Again, more detail will follow in Miss Largue's letter.

Please be assured that the health and safety of our students and staff will remain the highest priority for us and many health and safety measures will remain in place in school such as regular hand sanitising and enhanced cleaning. We will also continue to have robust Risk Assessments and Contingency Plans in place should Public Health England and/or the government recommend reinstating any restrictions or control measures at any time due to the changing national or local context. We also have remote teaching and learning planned and ready to be re-introduced, should this be needed at any point. However, we hope very much this will not be necessary and we hope for a much more settled and normal academic year with our students enjoying their learning in school.

In the new term, more information will be shared with parents on many areas of school life, including detail regarding how we assess student progress and how we keep parents regularly updated regarding this progress. For your early information, there will be a Parents' Evening for all year groups as usual, where parents can discuss their child's progress with individual subject teachers. Given the overwhelmingly positive feedback we received from parents following the remote Progress Day in July, these Parents' Evenings are likely to be organised remotely. The Parents' Evenings will take place between 2.45pm – 6.00pm as usual, on the following dates:

- Monday 20th September 2021- Year 11
- Monday 18th October 2021- Year 12 and Year 13
- Monday 24th January 2022- Year 10
- Monday 28th March 2022- Year 9
- Monday 6th June 2022- Year 8
- Monday 27th June 2022- Year 7

There will also be an additional remote Parents' Evening after school with Form Tutors on Monday 8th November 2021 for our new Year 7 and Year 12 students, to discuss how the students have settled into the new school year.

Thank you again for all of your continued support and we look forward to welcoming back all of our students next week.

Very best wishes,

Miss Patterson, Headteacher