



St Mary's Catholic School

Benton Park Road, Newcastle upon Tyne. NE7 7PE

where everyone can succeed



Tel: 0191 2153260 Fax: 0191 2153279

admin@st-marys.newcastle.sch.uk

www.stmarysnewcastle.co.uk

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Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your families are well.

Our students have made an excellent start to this half term and they continue to make us really proud with their fantastic effort, positive attitude and hard work. In school, we regularly remind students about our expectations regarding a number of areas of school life and I wanted to get in touch with you regarding a few of those pastoral messages and reminders.

Uniform

We pride ourselves on our high standards of uniform and how smart our students look. Whilst the vast majority of students attend school adhering to the Sixth Form Dress Code each day, we would like to ask for your support with some aspects of this. All Sixth Form students should follow the Sixth Form Dress Code at all times. Shoes must be smart, dark shoes. If heels are worn, they cannot be more than two inches high. Trainers or trainer style shoes are not allowed. If a student has a medical injury and needs to wear trainers for a period of time, they will need a medical note from a doctor. We understand that during the poor weather, students may travel to school in wellies or boots. We ask that these are changed to appropriate school shoes before students enter the school building. If your child decides to wear a skirt it must be professional and tailored. It can not be tight-fitted or skin-tight. In addition, the skirt should be no higher than two inches above the knee. Apart from a plain pair of studs and a watch, students should not wear any jewellery or piercings. Students who persistently do not follow the Sixth Form Dress Code will be sanctioned. If you are unsure about any aspect of the Sixth Form Dress Code, please see previously distributed guidance or school website regarding our expectations.

Health and Safety

Hand hygiene and respiratory hygiene continue to be paramount with students and staff directed to wash hands very regularly, when entering/leaving the school, entering/leaving zone areas and entering/leaving the dining hall. Hand sanitiser is available in all rooms and common areas for students and staff to continue handwashing procedures. Tissues are also provided in all classrooms and there is an increased number of bins across the school to ensure the NHS message of 'catch it, bin it, kill it' is embedded. Government guidelines recommend rooms to be well ventilated as far as possible. Therefore, we aim to ensure windows and classroom doors are open as much as possible. In order to maintain a comfortable temperature during winter months, we will be allowing students to wear their coats and gloves in classrooms if they feel they need to from Monday 29th November. Students will not be allowed to wear coats when walking around inside of the school building.

Covid

If your child is under the age of 18 years and 6 months, then in line with guidance from Public Health England, if they are a close contact to anyone who tests positive for Covid, they must do a lateral flow test each day for the 10 days following contact. If they develop symptoms or get a positive result during this time, they will need to get a PCR test.

If your child is over the age of 18 years and 6 months, then they must follow the same guidance as stated above if they are fully vaccinated (they have had two shots of the vaccine). However, if they are not fully vaccinated, they must self-isolate for 10 full days if they are identified as a close contact. This tracing process will take place through NHS Test and Trace.

Journey to and from school

We would like to ask for the support of parents in order to ensure that the behaviour of students on their journey to and from school is excellent. We are extremely proud of our excellent reputation in the local community and we want to ensure that all students represent the school in the most positive way. This means that students should make their way home in a calm, orderly and sensible manner being respectful to members of the public around them.

As you are aware, the school car park remains closed after school due to the large volumes of traffic and in order to ensure the health and safety of our students. We speak to our students regularly about road safety and the importance of using the two traffic light crossings outside of school when crossing the road. Our duty staff supervise this as best they can but if you are picking your child up from Benton Park Road, we would like to ask for your support with ensuring that your child does not run across the busy road. This is to ensure that all students are safe on their journey home.

Twitter

We have recently set up a school twitter account which allows us to share all of the fantastic activities which are taking place in school on a daily basis across all year groups. So far it has been a great success and the feedback from parents, staff, students and governors has been excellent. We would really like all parents to follow us so that they can see all of this and celebrate in the achievements of our students. Our twitter is @StMarysNewc if you would like to follow us. If you do not have a twitter account, we would highly recommend that you create one, it is quick and easy to do and will allow you to see all the great activities taking place in school.

We have been really impressed with the start our students have made to this academic year, we are so proud of them and they really are a credit to the school and their families. Thank you so much for your continued support. If you have any queries regarding any of this information, please do get in touch with your child's Head of Year in school.

Yours faithfully,



Mr Turnbull
Assistant Headteacher – Sixth Form