



# Trinity Catholic High School

Headmaster: Dr P C Doherty OBE, BA (Hons), DPhil (Oxon), FRSA

To All Members of our School Community

18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

**Regarding recent Government pronouncements on mass testing and a staggered start to the Spring Term.**

Dear All,

I deeply regret having to write this letter but I describe circumstances as they are rather than what they should be.

- Earlier in the week, I issued a letter regarding the return to school for the Spring Term: this letter has now been cancelled and rescinded.
- On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December, the Secretary of State decided to intervene. He wants all schools to begin the new term with a staggered start.
- I would ask you all to ignore the dates listed in the Department of Education circulars as most schools are returning on 4<sup>th</sup> January. Trinity, of course, is a Catholic school and we are observing the seasons of the Twelve Holy Days of Christmas up to and including the Feast of the Epiphany on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021. **Accordingly, we are set to return on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021.**
- This has now been modified. According to Government stipulations, **Years 11 and 13 will return on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January to full time schooling.**
- **Years 7,8,9,10 and 12 will return on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January to full time schooling.**
- Obligatory remote learning will take place on Thursday 7 and Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January for Years 7,8,9,10 and 12. All staff, parents and students should note this is formal schooling and make the necessary crucial preparations.
- Vulnerable children and those of key workers will of course, receive the usual separate letter describing specific arrangements for these two categories.
- Parents may also know from the media that a mass testing programme for students, will be implemented in the Spring Term. As yet we know very little about this programme but let me share with you the information we have:
  - The mass testing will not be mandatory.
  - Mass testing will only be carried out by people (not teaching staff) who have been trained and have had DBS clearance to work with children.

Main School Office

Upper Site: Mornington Road, Woodford Green, Essex, IG8 0TP Telephone: 020 8504-3419

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- We shall share details of this programme as early as possible in the new term.
- Such tests will only be carried out with full Parental/Guardian permission and support: a standard letter will be produced at a later date for this purpose.

I must be absolutely frank with all members of the community. I have described matters as they are but everything could change if the Government make further last minute decisions as they did yesterday afternoon.

Kindest regards to you and yours for the Holy Season,

Dr P.C. Doherty OBE

Headmaster

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