



Trinity Catholic High School

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

Date: 12/05/2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

Earlier this week, the Prime Minister announced that from Monday 17th May 2021 the country will move to Step 3 of the four stage roadmap out of lockdown. As part of this, the Department for Education has revised their coronavirus (Covid-19) operational guidance to schools and we have, in turn, updated our health and safety risk assessment to reflect the most current recommendations and advice that we have been offered. I confirm that Trinity's Risk Assessment (effective from 17th May 2021) is now published on our school website and I strongly advise that all students, parents, staff and visitors to our school will make themselves familiar with the advice that we offer in this document. I draw attention to the following important matters:

Face Coverings:

The most significant change that is introduced from Monday next week relates to the use of face coverings and I confirm the following:

- Government guidance is that face coverings are no longer recommended for students in classrooms or communal areas. Here at Trinity, we will implement this guidance and we will no longer require that students wear face coverings in classrooms or communal areas from Monday next week.
- I know that some students and families will be in disagreement with this guidance and I fully understand this. Therefore, to be clear, I also fully accept any student's decision to continue wearing a face covering in class or any other area of our school if they wish to carry on doing this.
- Face coverings will also no longer be recommended for staff in classrooms however I will also respect each individual member of staff's choice on this matter.
- It is recommended that face coverings are worn by staff and visitors in situations outside of classrooms where social distancing is not possible (for example, when moving around in corridors and communal areas). Therefore, in line with this, we will continue to expect that visitors to our school will wear face coverings when they come onto our school sites and in any situation on site where social distancing is not possible.
- The government advises that at any time in the future the reintroduction of face coverings for students or staff may be advised for a temporary period in response to particular localised outbreaks, including variants of concern.
- Children and young people aged 11 and over must still wear a face covering on public transport unless they are exempt from wearing face coverings.

Measures sustained (to mitigate the spread of Covid-19):

It remains imperative that the system of controls to mitigate the spread of the Covid-19 coronavirus continue to be rigorously applied to enable the safest possible school environment. Therefore the following measures (all detailed in our risk assessment) remain in place and we will diligently uphold these through to the next stage of the roadmap out of lockdown:

- We will continue to maintain distinct groups or 'Year Bubbles' with staggered start of day and end of day times. We will also continue our staggered break and lunchtime arrangements.
- I remind parents that they should not make arrangements to drop students off or pick them up from the areas immediately outside the school gates on Sydney Road or Mornington Road. To reduce congestion in these areas please conduct the pick-up or drop-off at St Thomas of Canterbury Church car park or on one of the streets close to the school.
- Unless government guidance changes, we will continue to offer a 'grab-and-go' school meal menu with disposable plates and cutlery. Where possible, students should bring a packed lunch to school so that we can reduce queueing and waiting in our dining halls.

Main School Office

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

Lower Site: Sydney Road, Woodford Green, Essex, IG8 0TB Telephone: 020 8504-8946

www.tchs.org.uk info@tchs.org.uk @TCHSWoodford



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- Classrooms and indoor communal areas at school will be kept well ventilated by keeping windows and doors open (not emergency fire doors, unless they have a fire stop guard). Therefore, in the colder weather, I advise that students should wear additional layers of clothing to help stay warm when in school. The heating is still on in all areas of the school however, as you can imagine, it is difficult to keep a consistent comfortable temperature in the buildings on those wintery and windy days that are a feature of our spring/summer term this year.
- COVID-19 is an easy virus to kill when it is on skin and this can be done with soap and water or hand sanitiser. At school we have installed hand sanitisers in classrooms and communal areas and we remind students that they must clean their hands regularly, including when they arrive at the school, when they return from breaks and before and after eating.

Home Testing:

Rapid testing using Lateral Flow Devices (LFDs) helps to identify people who are infectious but do not have any COVID-19 symptoms. While the programme of LFD testing that we rolled out at Trinity last term was a great success we have, as you know, now moved to a home testing model for students and staff. I ask that parents/carers note and support the following:

- While testing remains voluntary, students are strongly encouraged to self-swab and test themselves twice a week at home.
- Results (whether void, positive or negative) must be reported to NHS Test and Trace as soon as the test is completed either online or by telephone as per the instructions in the home test kit.
- Students with a positive LFD test result must self-isolate in line with the stay-at-home guidance. They will also need to arrange a lab-based polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test to confirm the result. If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the student can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms. Those with a negative LFD test result can also continue to attend school and use protective measures.
- The asymptomatic testing programme (LFD Test) does not replace the current testing policy for those with symptoms. Anyone with symptoms (even if they recently had a negative LFD test result), should still self-isolate immediately according to government guidelines. Those with symptoms are also expected to order a test online or visit a test site to take a lab-based PCR test to check if they have the virus.
- We have a supply of Lateral Flow Device Test Kits available at school and parents / students are welcome to request these from the main office on either site – there is no cost incurred for this.

If you have any questions about our Covid-19 Risk Assessment or any of the above matters please do not hesitate to contact Trinity's Covid-19 Team on covid@tchs.uk.net.

Yours sincerely,

Dr P Doherty OBE
Headmaster

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