

THE SACRED HEART LANGUAGE COLLEGE

Roman Catholic Diocese of Westminster

The High Street, Wealdstone, Harrow, Middlesex, HA3 7AY

Headteacher:

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26th February 2021

Dear Parent,

Important information on the return to school for all pupils from the 8th March

Further to the recent government announcement regarding a full return to school from the 8th March I can now share with you our planning for the week. Our guiding principle is to ensure all can return in as safe a way as possible in line with Government guidance. As you are probably aware secondary schools have been asked to test pupils for Covid who are asymptomatic before they resume lessons. To ensure that this can happen we are following the DFE guidance and will be providing a phased return to school for all year groups throughout the week.

First Day Back

We will welcome back each tutor group at a different time throughout the week of the 8th March. Your daughter's first day will be a shorter day to ensure testing can be fully completed for that year group without any cross over. She will also undertake a variety of pastoral activities with an emphasis on her wellbeing before resuming her normal timetable and timings on her second day.

Arrival and departure time	Monday 8th March	Tuesday, 9th March	Wednesday, 10th March	Thursday, 11th March	Friday, 12th March
	Year 11	Year 10	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
8.30 – 12pm	H	H	H	H	H
8.55 - 12.20pm	E	E	E	E	E
9.25 – 1.00pm	A	A	A	A	A
9.55 – 1.30pm	R	R	R	R	R
10.25 – 2.00pm	T	T	T	T	T
10.55- 2.30pm		S	S	S	S

Throughout that week remote learning will continue whilst all pupils await their allocated day. As a reminder we will be on week one of the timetable.

On your daughter's first day back she is asked to bring a packed lunch/snacks for her break time if required. From day 2 the canteen will be in operation but for the first week will only be serving 'grab bags' that all pupils can order. We will resume the normal rota for hot food from the 15th March.

Testing on her First Day

When your daughter first arrives, she will go to her form base. I would ask that you speak to her about the importance of maintaining social distancing. I know that pupils will be delighted to see their friends again but please remind her of the very real dangers to herself and other family members if they hug and do not maintain a safe distance. All pupils are to enter school via their



usual entry point i.e. Years 7 and 11 via the back gate on Claremont Road and Years 8,9 and 10 via the main school entrance.

On arrival your daughter will be guided through the testing process. Once she has watched a video outlining how to take the test in a safe way she will be escorted to the testing area to undertake the test.

Although testing is not mandatory I would urge everyone to follow this process. We have been successfully operating our testing since January for all staff and the key worker families. The process is painless and administered by the pupils. It does provide some reassurance and helps in tracking asymptomatic cases preventing greater rates of infection. This is, of course, important in ensuring that we can keep school open and do not have to send large numbers home due to catching or being close contacts of those with Covid.

Testing will not take place without your prior consent. You should have received the consent forms and I would remind you to return them as soon as possible with all the relevant information so we can arrange the bulk registration for students. This will speed up the process on the day.

After the first day testing will continue for a further three times in school over the coming weeks. After that pupils will be issued with home testing kits. They will be familiar with how to administer the test and you can supervise.

Face coverings

We have updated our risk assessment for the ongoing safety of our staff and pupils. When we return all of the systems and protocols that were in place in the Autumn term will continue. In addition, in line with DFE guidance, all pupils must wear a mask in class as well as all communal areas. If pupils have medical reasons why they are exempt please pass this information on to your daughter's Director of Studies. Otherwise all pupils must adhere to this and bring their own supply of face coverings.

As outlined previously pupils are reminded to follow the guidance that has been issued on the safe removal and storage of masks and the need to wear their masks on public transport.

Illness

Please do not send your daughter to school if she is exhibiting any Covid 19 like symptoms i.e. she has a high temperature, new continuous cough or change to her sense of smell and/or taste. If this is the case you must arrange a PCR Covid test outside of school in the normal way. **In school testing is only for those who do not have any symptoms.** If your daughter tests positive in school we will contact you to arrange for her to be collected as a matter of urgency. If she tests positive at home then please contact us so we can arrange for any close contacts to self-isolate as was the established practice prior to Christmas.

Punctuality and attendance

All pupils are expected to return on their allocated day. To ensure the safety of all it is vital that your daughter is punctual to school to avoid crossing over with another tutor group prior to testing, whilst not arriving significantly in advance of her scheduled time.

From day 2 it is also important that she arrives on time to avoid congestion and mixing with other year group bubbles.

General reminders

Pupils are asked to bring their own tissues, hand sanitisers and water bottles. On arrival pupils are asked to sanitise their hands. Throughout the day they are reminded to regularly and thoroughly wash their hands. Please remind your daughter of the instruction of coughing into a tissue and the government guidelines of 'use it, bin it, kill it'.

Pupil Progress

It is important to note that yet again, the vast majority of pupils have shown themselves to be resilient learners. I have been so impressed with how they have worked showing a real strength of character. We will be delighted to welcome pupils back and to celebrate their success. We will also be working with all pupils to ensure they can consolidate and build upon their learning during this time and make rapid progress on their return. This will be an ongoing focus.

GCSE Awards this summer

For our Year 11 and Year 10 students undertaking GCSE exams I know that this has been a worrying time. Ofqual have now released information regarding how these grades will be awarded. As you will have heard in the media this will be based on work completed so far and work that they will complete in the coming months. This should offer a great deal of reassurance to our pupils that they can achieve if they continue to commit to their studies. Further details will be provided by their subject teachers.

I am sorry that this letter is, once again, so long. Thank you for your ongoing support and we look forward to returning to some normality for our school community.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Geraldine Higgins', written in a cursive style.

Geraldine A. Higgins
Executive Headteacher