

THE SACRED HEART LANGUAGE COLLEGE

Roman Catholic Diocese of Westminster

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

Executive Headteacher:
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9th December 2021

Dear Parent,

As we approach the end of term I wanted to share with you some important information about our arrangements in the coming weeks.

Christmas lunches

Christmas lunches will be served in the school dining hall next Wednesday, 15th December for Years 7 and 10 and Thursday, 16th December for Years 8, 9 and 11. On these days this will be the only hot food available. Pupils can still order their grab bags which they can eat in their allocated lunch space.

Carol Service

The carol service is a special part of the school calendar. We had hoped to revert to holding this in person this year but due to the uncertainty that exists around the omicron variant then we have made the difficult decision to once again hold this as a virtual event. You will be able to join the celebration online from Tuesday, 16th December. Your daughter will be able to access this via her Sharepoint link.

Last day of term – Friday, 17th December

The last day of term will be a non-uniform day with pupils wearing their Christmas jumpers. You are reminded that all funds raised on this day go to charity with payments made via ParentPay. It is a real celebration of our school community that so many pupils have gone the extra mile in raising funds for charities and supporting those less fortunate than themselves. The Christmas hampers made up of tutor group donations have been absolutely amazing.

On this last day of term, we plan to have some Christmas celebrations and finish our day with a special advent liturgy. All pupils will be dismissed at 12.20pm.

Covid arrangements

All of these events are planned to ensure that all can stay safe in school, particularly in light of the unknown elements of the new omicron variant. In addition, we have reintroduced zoned areas to prevent year groups mixing at lunchtimes with separate toilet allocations. I would ask for your ongoing support to remind pupils of the need to continue wearing their masks around the school.

Ongoing LFT home testing

To ensure the safety of all it is vital that everyone undertakes twice weekly lateral flow tests. If these are positive or if pupils are feeling unwell they should not come to school and book a PCR test. As a reminder, if this is positive then your daughter must self-isolate for 10 days. You will be contacted by the NHS track and trace team if this is identified or suspected to be the omicron variant. If this is the case then all close contacts will also have to self-isolate. To avoid this please remind your daughter of the need to socially distance and limit her contacts. The government guidelines also ask that all pupils and family members take an LFT test prior to mixing with others or going to a crowded space.



Start of term – Thursday, 6th January

The government has asked all secondary schools to covid test all pupils in school at the start of the new term as we did at the start of the academic year. To facilitate this, we will have a staggered arrival throughout the first day. To minimise contacts on arrival all pupils allocated to the gym should enter via the front entrance and all pupils allocated to the dance studio should enter via the back gate on Claremont Road.

Pupils should arrive at the following times.

Time	Gym Arrive via side gate at main entrance	Dance Studio Arrive via Claremont Road gate
8.30	11 H E A	11 R T S
9.30	10 HEA	10 R T S
10.00	9 H E A	9 R T S
10.45	8 H E A	8 R T S
11.30	7 H E A R T	

Once the test has been completed and the results through then pupils will go directly to their lessons. Hopefully, this will ensure that all can return safe in the knowledge that they are not in danger of bringing infections into school or home.

If any pupil does test positive then you will be contacted and asked to collect your daughter and arrange a PCR test as a matter of urgency.

If you have previously provided consent for testing to take place then you do not need to do anything further. However, if you have not then you are asked to fill in the attached consent form and return by the end of Tuesday, 14th December.

Normal school times and usual entrances will resume from Friday 7th January.

Feast of the Epiphany

The first day of term is also, of course, the feast of the Epiphany. On such occasions we always have mass in school. Unfortunately, due to the logistics of organising the testing we will not be able to do this for every year group. Year 9 pupils will have a year group mass with all other pupils asked to attend the morning or evening masses as a family within their own parish. It is with huge regret that we have made this decision but I hope that you can appreciate the challenging organisation of testing the entire school upon their return.

Any further changes or updates

If there are any further government updates over the Christmas holiday that will necessitate a change to our plans then all information will be posted on our school website.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a safe, happy and holy Christmas season. We look forward to 2022 with a certain amount of uncertainty but also a sense of positivity and purpose to ensure that all remain safe and can be enabled to be successful.

Yours sincerely,



Geraldine A. Higgins
Executive Headteacher