

THE SACRED HEART LANGUAGE COLLEGE

Roman Catholic Diocese of Westminster

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Dear Parent,

Welcome back to our new term and a very happy new year. It was good to welcome back all of our students yesterday. The in-school covid testing went well offering some level of reassurance to the school community as we commence the new term.

This testing, prior to starting lessons, highlighted a small number of cases which could have spread rapidly within school. However, this only captures the situation at the moment which can quickly change. This highlights the huge importance of every pupil undertaking home lateral flow tests twice a week and reporting the results to the school in the established way and registering the results on the government website. This will help us to keep pupils in school.

The following is a summary of some of the key changes as we start into our term:

Face coverings

All pupils are now required to wear face coverings in lessons as well as moving around the school. Pupils are encouraged to carry their own hand sanitiser and to use this after touching their masks. Spare masks should also be carried and extreme care taken to put them on and off via the ear loops and not touch the front of the mask.

School measures

To ensure the safety of all pupils we are asking them to continue to social distance when moving around the school. All year groups have been allocated specific areas so that they are not socialising and mixing across other year groups. Pupils must also bring their own water bottles which are clearly labelled. These can be filled from the water fountains but pupils are not allowed to drink directly from the water fountains. Pupils are also asked not to gather outside school when leaving but to move away so as not to create a risk to others. The usual routines of sanitising and following all respiratory hygiene guidelines are still in place.

PCR tests following a positive lateral flow test

The government have temporarily suspended PCR tests following on from a positive lateral flow test from next Tuesday, 11 January. This will mean that anyone who receives a positive LFT test result will be required to self-isolate immediately and will not be required to take a confirmatory PCR test. We will let you know of further changes.

Self-isolation

From the 22nd December the government changed the arrangements if you received a positive test. The number of days self-isolation has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances. Individuals may now take LFT tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart.



Pupil and staff absence

We will continue to monitor and make decisions based on the level of cases we have in school. It is our full intention to keep school fully operational. However, we will let you know if staffing levels become a major concern and inform you as to what action will be taken. Pupils who are absent from school should continue to follow their timetable via show my homework or Microsoft teams if they are well enough to do so.

Collecting pupils

We have received complaints yet again from local residents regarding dangerous driving and parking. Please arrange to meet your daughter at a designated place if you are planning to pick her up. We are in a residential area and therefore ask for your co-operation in being mindful of the needs of local residents. As previously relayed parents should not drive down the cul-de-sac of Claremont Road or enter the school premises when collecting or dropping their daughter to school.

We look forward to continuing this term our focus on teaching and learning. Our pupils have been inspirational role models for us all in addressing all challenges with a sense of determination, flexibility and positivity. We look forward to building on this strong start to 2022.

Yours sincerely



Geraldine A. Higgins
Executive Headteacher