



St Aidan's Catholic Academy

*'We believe that God has created each person
to celebrate life to the full'*



'Where excellence is a habit'

21st October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

First and foremost I would like to start by sincerely thanking parents for their support of pupils' return to school this term. Pupil attendance has been over 94% and we are very appreciative of, and certainly don't take for granted, the trust that this represents in terms of the arrangements to keep pupils and staff as safe as possible. I hope that pupils have enjoyed the first half term, seeing all of their friends and teachers again and settling back into classroom learning.

With the pandemic still not over, the government unveiled a 'tiered' approach to keeping schools open in the coming months. It is important to note that this tiered approach to schools is different to the national tiers which were announced more recently. At the moment, all schools in the country are in 'Tier 1', even those in areas subject to 'local lockdown' restrictions, but should the prevalence of the virus increase then regional health protection teams could adopt different tiers as follows:

- Tier 1: all schools open (the current position, even in 'local lockdown' areas).
- Tier 2: Secondary schools to move to a 'rota-system'. For all pupils except key worker and 'vulnerable' children, the 'rota-system' would involve attendance at St Aidan's for two weeks, followed by remote learning at home for two weeks.
- Tier 3: Secondary schools to close except to government identified year groups (except to key worker and vulnerable children).
- Tier 4: All schools (secondary and primary) to close (except to key worker and vulnerable children).

As a school we have made careful preparations for how we would operate should Sunderland or the North East move beyond 'Tier 1' at any stage in the coming months. As you will remember, during June and July we successfully operated a timetable whereby pupils could access pre-recorded lessons and make subsequent submissions. We have prepared thoroughly and are pleased to confirm that we are now in a position where we can deliver live lessons mirroring the school day in the event of a Tier 2-4 school closure. Therefore your son will follow his normal timetabled school day through Teams and his learning will continue undisturbed. If this scenario was to happen, it is vitally important that he gets up at his normal time and is in each of his Teams meetings at his normal timetabled time. Over the final week of the first half-term we will be preparing pupils for these eventualities. On Thursday the 22nd October all pupils in the Academy will have a drop-down lesson. During this collapsed period of time we will be ensuring that pupils can securely access Teams and are fully aware of protocols and processes for accessing their online timetable. In addition to this, we are in the process of placing pre-recorded



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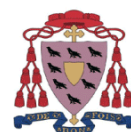
guidelines and documents for you as parents to use in the event of school closure. These will be found in the parent section of the website.

We very much hope that these preparations are not necessary, and that your son's education can remain on-site, but we wished to brief you in advance so that you can make necessary preparations. Thank you once again for all the support and kind words you have provided this half-term and once again I hope that all of our pupils and their families have a peaceful holiday.

Yours sincerely,

Glenn Sanderson

Headteacher.



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