



St Aidan's Catholic Academy

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



'Where excellence is a habit'

11th December 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

Following the recent Government announcements around earlier closure of schools we have made the decision that we will stay open on Friday 18th with the early finish of 12.20pm as planned. Our expectation is that every pupil will attend up to this date. I am happy to say that this means there will be no need to change arrangements for the end of this term and the beginning of the next.

Reporting of positive cases of COVID-19 during the holiday period

We have been asked to ensure that staff, parents and carers are aware of the following information and relevant arrangements regarding positive Coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in the holidays and follow the DfE instructions for schools as follows:

1. Initially I wish to draw your attention to the period Saturday 19th December 2020 to Thursday 24th December 2020 i.e. the first 6 days after teaching ends. If a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms **within 48 hours** of being in school then the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school. Staff in school responsible for contact tracing have designated a limited period in the day to receive notification of positive cases and to advise close contacts to self-isolate. For pupils at St. Aidan's Catholic Academy we ask if you can notify us by e-mailing contacttrace@staca.co.uk with a screenshot of confirmation of the positive test, if possible, before 12 noon each day for any positive cases having developed symptoms **within 48 hours of being in school.** Please ensure your e-mail is headed 'St. Aidan's - COVID-19'.
2. E-mails of any positive result cases will be forwarded to this address and, following advice from the Department for Education and Public Health Sunderland, a decision will be made on advising close contacts to self-isolate. This may be done by text and/or email.
3. If a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), **having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should not be contacted.** Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace
4. Where pupils are required to self-isolate due to contact with a positive case **after the first 6 days** following the end of term i.e. after 24th December 2020, **we do not need to be informed** about their absence until the first day of the new term ie Monday 4th January 2021. I must stress however that if a pupil is self-isolating because of their positive result and/or a positive result for a member of their household or Christmas bubble and/or they have been contacted via Track or Test & Trace, then they must not come back to school until the end of their recommended isolation period.



A member of
Bishop Chadwick
Catholic Education Trust



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We pray everyone stays safe during the holiday period and there will be no or very few positive cases to report, but I must stress that the advice to report is there for a reason. We, as a school community, must do our bit to ensure that if anyone in our household is unwell and/or showing signs of coronavirus or has been in contact with someone who has tested positive and has been informed to self-isolate then we must all follow Government advice and recommendations.

On behalf of St. Aidan's governors and staff we hope everyone has a healthy, happy and Holy Christmas.

God bless,

Yours sincerely,

Mr Glenn Sanderson



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