



St Aidan's Catholic Academy

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



'Where excellence is a habit'

3rd January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Following the Government's announcements at the end of last week regarding the start of next term, I am writing to you to give you as much clarity as I can at this stage as I know that a number of you will be wondering when your child will be coming back to school and what the arrangements are.

What the Department for Education's announcement means for our school is outlined below.

Week commencing 4th January 2021.

School is only open to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers **from 5th January 2021. Parents of these children have already registered for their son to return.** For safeguarding purposes, we must know who will be returning to school to make secure provision; regrettably we will not be able to accept pupils that we have not been formally notified of.

All other year groups will engage in home learning – please find further details attached.

Systems to enable mass testing of staff and pupils will be established; the testing regime will begin with staff, children of critical workers, vulnerable children, Y11 and Y13 pupils first. More details will be published in due course of our timetable around this.

Week commencing 11th January 2021.

School is open to vulnerable children and the children of key workers.

Y11 and Y13 pupils will return to school for in class teaching.

Y7, Y8, Y9 and Y10 will engage in home learning.

Mass testing of all year groups will continue.

Week commencing 18th January 2021.

Full return to school for **ALL** pupils.

As you will be aware, schools have been asked to prepare to deliver Covid testing of staff and pupils. To allow for staff training on the delivery of COVID testing, Monday 4th of January is now an INSET day. On this date, **all** pupils must remain at home.



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In accordance with Government guidance, all pupils in Years 11 and 13 will return to school on **Monday 11th of January 2021**, the day will consist of continued COVID testing for pupils who have consented and preparation for the mock exams. It is vital that your son attends from this day onwards so that we can best secure his future. COVID consent forms were shared with you at the end of the Autumn term. Mock exams for Year 11 will be rescheduled when we can guarantee that we can deliver them with minimal disruption. In order to provide reliable data should Centre Assessed Grades be required in the summer it is imperative that pupils attend all their remote learning lessons on time fully equipped.

Whilst pupils are not on site for face to face teaching, they will be following their **normal lesson timetable** from **Tuesday 5th of January**. All lessons, including Morning Meeting, will be live streamed via Teams. Pupils should be logged into Teams and join the lesson five minutes before the start with all equipment for learning at hand. Pupils should enter the meeting dressed appropriately, on mute and not use the chat function unless directed to do so by the class teacher. The Behaviour Policy and Acceptable User Policy must be followed at all times. Lessons for year 7, 10 and 11 begin at 8.20am. Lessons for year 8 and 9 begin at 8.30am.

Should a member of staff be absent your son will be advised of this via TEAMS. During this lesson it is expected to work from his 100% book or read.

If your son has any problems accessing the remote learning platform including TEAMS logins, please contact Mr Daniel Naughton via email daniel.naughton@staca.co.uk.

At St Aidan's we are committed to safeguarding and should you be concerned about any safeguarding issues for remote learners during this week, please contact our Designated Safeguarding Lead - Mrs Hogg via email for support and guidance gemma.hogg@staca.co.uk.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. We understand that this late Government decision will also place additional pressures on your families until we can welcome all year groups back on 18th January 2021.

I wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Glenn Sanderson
Headteacher



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