

Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA(Hons) NPQH



*Let your
light shine*

24 February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to this spring half term. The half term began well on Monday with the Prime Minister releasing the good news that we have long been waiting for; schools will be returning to face-to-face teaching from Monday 8th March. As you would expect there is a little bit more detail behind the headline and the details are contained within these links:

[Guidance for Parents and Carers during the Covid outbreak](#)

[Guidance for asymptomatic testing in schools](#)

I must highlight that the return of pupils is **from 8th March** and not necessarily on 8th March. This is because before pupils can return to face to face teaching, there is an expectation that they are tested at least once. Once a child has had a negative test they can begin lessons. Following this, pupils will be tested twice again. In order to achieve this we will need consent forms and to undertake a significant number of tests each day starting from the 8th March. We will only be able to manage this with a staggered start to face-to-face teaching. We will endeavour to continue to provide the best remote teaching whilst testing and we will balance the needs of continuing learning, with getting pupils back into school as soon as is safe to do so.

I am sure you can imagine that this presents us with huge logistical issues to overcome. We will, however, manage these with your help and it will undoubtedly make our community safer for everyone. Once we have worked out the details we will communicate this to you as soon as possible so that you can make appropriate arrangements. We will send out a link shortly for you to complete the testing consent form. Please can I urge you to complete it as soon as possible. This may determine when your child comes back to school.

When students come back from 8th March many of the control measures that were put in place in September will still be relevant now. We will continue to have staggered start times, breaks, lunches and finish times. Students will continue to be in year group bubbles and have their year group allocated areas and entrance and exit points. Students must ensure that they keep 2 metres away from people where possible and wash their hands regularly, using the sanitizing equipment provided in every faculty area. One of the biggest differences from earlier is that until Easter, **students are expected to wear face coverings in classrooms** as well as corridors and other indoor communal areas. I will of course write to you closer to 8th March with the full details of all the measures we will put in place to ensure the school is as safe as we can make it.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

Mrs Oddie
Headteacher