



# Holy Family Catholic High School

Virgin's Lane, Thornton, Liverpool L23 4UL.  
Tel: 0151 924 6451 Fax: 0151 932 1417  
Headteacher: Mr M Symes BA(Hons), NPQH

Dear Parents,

The purpose of this letter is to outline our plans for the new school year in light of the government's announcement regarding changes to educational settings that will come into effect with Step 4 (from Monday 19 July).

## Summary of Step 4 Changes to Educational Settings:

The following changes announced by the government will come into effect at Holy Family Catholic High School from 1 September 2021.

- **Hand hygiene**—students will continue to clean their hands regularly with soap and water or hand sanitiser.
- **Bubbles**—it will no longer be necessary to keep children in consistent groups ('bubbles').
- **Managing those with symptoms and positive cases**—students should not come into school if they have symptoms. If they develop symptoms whilst in school they should be sent home, those displaying symptoms should book a PCR test and self-isolate until they receive the result. In the event of a positive PCR result, the individual will be required to continue to self-isolate.
- **Contact tracing**—close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace and schools will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing. Close contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact.
- **Self-isolation**—from 16 August 2021, adults who have been 'double-jabbed' and children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace. Instead, children and adults in school will be informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test.
- **Face coverings**—students will no longer be required to wear face coverings in classrooms or in communal areas, or whilst travelling to/from school on public transport. In the event of a local outbreak, face coverings may be reinstated.
- **Ventilation**—classrooms and offices must remain well-ventilated, comfortable environments.
- **Lateral Flow Device testing**—students will be requested to take two LFD tests in the school's on-site test centre on their return in September. In addition, they will take twice-weekly LFD tests at home until the end of September 2021.

- **Positive LFD test results**—students with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate and book a confirmatory PCR test. If the PCR test result is negative, the individual can return to school (as long as he/she does not have Covid-19 symptoms).
- **Risk assessment / contingency plans**—schools will continue to be required to have a full risk assessment in place for the new school year and a contingency plan for managing a Covid-19 outbreak in school or the local community
- **Remote education**—schools will continue to be required to provide remote education for those students who are not able to attend for Covid-19 related reasons (typically self-isolation).

### **Arrangements for the 2021-22 School Year:**

In light of the changes set out above, we have reviewed our existing procedures and made plans for the new school year. Whilst students will no longer be taught within year group 'bubbles', some of the arrangements introduced this year will be retained as they have contributed to a calmer school environment and resolved some issues we face when managing large numbers of students during breaks with only limited communal spaces. In particular, split breaks and lunches will be retained and the school day will end at 2.50pm (Years 7 & 8) and 3.00pm (rest of school). The school bus will continue as it is, in year groups, and a late bus will be available Tuesday – Thursday each week for extra-curricular and subject enrichment activities.

### **Covid-19 Testing on Return to School:**

As mentioned above, students will be asked to complete two LFD tests in school on their return in September. It is necessary for tests to be administered between three and five days apart and we are currently planning for testing to take place in the sports hall as follows:

- **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September:**  
 Year 7 pupils (12.00 – 2.00pm)  
 Year 11 pupils (2.00pm-3.00pm)
- **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September:**  
 Year 8 pupils (9.00am-10.00am)  
 Year 9 pupils (10.00am – 11.00am)  
 Year10 pupils (11.00am – 12.00noon)  
 Year 12 pupils (1.00pm – 2.00pm)  
 Year 13 pupils (2.00pm-3.00pm)

**Please note: Buses will be provided to and from school**

## **Second LFD Test – Week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> September:**

During their second test, week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> September, students will be provided with self-testing LFD kits to enable them to home-test twice weekly until the end of September 2021. I will write to you during the summer holidays to provide more information about testing and which of the allocated dates your son/daughter will be required to attend. I would like to thank you in advance for your full support with this return to school testing process which will help us to minimise the spread of Covid-19 throughout the school community at the beginning of the new term.

I trust the information contained in this letter is helpful. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact school by email at [admin.holyfamilyhigh@schools.sefton.gov.uk](mailto:admin.holyfamilyhigh@schools.sefton.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Symes  
Headteacher