



**St. Cuthbert's**  
Roman Catholic High School

24 February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

You will no doubt be aware that the Prime Minister has declared all Secondary aged students will be able to return to school from Monday, 8 March 2021. This is indeed an essential and welcome development for us all.

It may be however that we stagger the return of students across the week beginning March 8<sup>th</sup>. The reason for this is that we will have the difficulty of mass testing nearly 1300 people three times each in just a few days. At present we are planning for how best this can be done. I would ask that you please understand we will need some time to effectively plan and communicate this to you. My intention is that I will communicate the plans to you on Friday afternoon as part of our weekly update.

Many of you have already completed the consent form for testing but some haven't. Could I please ask that you do so as soon as possible via the link below. Testing at school is not compulsory and you are of course able to say no. We need to know how many students we are testing to complete our plans so please respond if you haven't already done so, whether you are giving consent or saying no.

A second key change when students return as well as testing is the compulsory wearing of masks. It has now been made compulsory for everyone to wear a mask indoors at all times unless there is a medical condition which exempts individuals from having to wear one. This will be a requirement for all students and just as with attendance at any public place students should bring their own masks as this is much more hygienic. This situation will remain the case until at least Easter.

Please rest assured that the staff at St Cuthbert's are doing everything possible to achieve the safest and smoothest return to school for all of our students. You will hear more from me on Friday including the plans for re-opening. There will also be a video made available to parents and students next week which provides full details of everything including reminders about the current rules in school. Please also just be aware there has been a long history of last minute changes and u-turns during this pandemic so everything is subject to possible change at any time.

Yours sincerely

Mr D. Shields  
Headteacher