

St Mary's Catholic High School, Leyland

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INFORMATION FOR ALL YEARS

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the Easter break, it feels that some sense of normality is returning to our lives. Our return to lessons since 8 March has gone very well. It has been wonderful to once again work with our pupils face-to-face and have the building alive with their presence.

As adults, we have all been impressed by the way in which the boys and girls have re-adapted to being back in school. None more so than in the way they approached the testing programme we put in place, which they took in their stride. Many thanks to you all for your help and assistance in supporting the reintegration back into school.

End of Term

We break for Easter at 12.30pm on Wednesday 31 March. School busses have been arranged for this time. In addition, any pupil who is in receipt of Free School Meals will be able to pick this up at breaktime. If you are planning to collect your child from school can I once again ask that you are considerate to our neighbours. Please do try and arrange a spot away from the immediate area around school because this does get extremely busy, and be mindful not to block resident's driveways.

Testing During Easter

All pupils have been supplied with enough Lateral Flow Tests for them to continue testing for Covid-19 during the Easter break. For the safety of your family, plus the wider community, we ask that every pupil continues with the Sunday-Wednesday testing regime throughout the holiday.

Schools are still being asked to assist with NHS Test and Trace for any positive cases. Please inform school on the C19@ismchs.com email address if your child tests positive up to 48 hours after their last time in school. Therefore, up to Saturday 3 April, please let school and the NHS know of a positive result. From Saturday 3 April, you only need let the NHS know.

If your child tests positive before we return to school on 19 April, you will need to let school know if their 10-day isolation period means they will not be returning to school at the start of the new term.

Free School Meals

The government have indicated that this will be the final holiday period in which families will receive Free School Meal vouchers as the Covid Winter Grant Fund is coming to an end. Eligible pupils will be handed these vouchers on the last day of term to bring home for the holiday. If you have any concerns regarding Free School Meals, then please contact the school office to discuss further.

Return to School Expectations

School will reopen to all pupils at the usual time on Monday 19 April. Since returning at the start of March, we have been a little more forgiving than usual in terms of uniform expectations, understanding that purchasing some items may have been difficult for families. However, given that

shops and hairdressers are expected to reopen before the start of term, we will return to our highest expectations regarding uniform, and every pupil will be expected to look their best.

For the summer term, pupils do not need to wear a jumper if they choose not to.

I will remind all parents that attendance at school for all pupils is now mandatory – your child must attend school full-time. If you have a specific query regarding the attendance of your child, please speak to the appropriate Pastoral Leader.

National Tutoring Programme

In addition to the work that teachers are doing to help all pupils catch-up, St Mary's has also signed-up to be part of the National Tutoring Programme. This is a scheme which allows for English and Maths tutors to come into school and help pupils who have fallen behind with their studies due to lockdown. Pupils have been identified in these two department areas and will receive letters explaining about the programme which will start after the Easter break.

Year 9 Options

Well done to all our Year 9 pupils who returned their Option choices on time! Soon after Easter, pupils will receive confirmation of their courses for next year. Over 95% of pupils will be receiving their first choices which is excellent to report and bodes well for their future studies. For some time, we have been looking to increase and improve our Option provision and this year pupils had 20 subjects to consider – possibly our largest ever Option programme.

Governor Vacancy

The Governing Body currently has vacancies for Foundation Governors. If you are a practicing Catholic and would like to consider undertaking this important role on behalf of the Archdiocese of Liverpool, further details can be found here – www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/education/Foundation-Governors. Initial interest can be registered by contacting the school at head@ismchs.com.

Charity Work

Many thanks to all our families who supported our recent own clothes day. Through your donations, plus raffle sales, we have raised over £800, which will be split equally between our two main school charities –Nugent (www.wearenugent.org) and Cafod (www.cafod.org.uk), allowing us to recognise our obligation to help communities both local and global.

As Easter approaches, I would like to pay tribute to the whole St Mary's community who have pulled together fantastically in the last 12 months. The message of Jesus's resurrection tells us that there is always hope, no matter how dark the situation we may face. We have encountered numerous challenges, but your support as parents and carers has been keenly felt by all and I thank you for that.

Finally, I'd like to wish you and your family a restful, happy and Holy Easter break.

Yours sincerely,



Mr P Thompson

Headteacher