



St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School

Prepare the way of the Lord

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10 September 2020

Dear Parent or Carer

It is fantastic to have full school again; we have really missed having our pupils here. This is just a short update about how everyone has coped with the school re-opening. I am delighted to inform you that the orientation days have progressed remarkably well, with all pupils taking in a lot of information and then responding to it in the correct way.

Thank you for reinforcing with your son or daughter at home how important it is to follow our new procedures to keep everyone safe at school, this is much appreciated. Therefore, could I politely ask that you reinforce the following points to make things run even smoother:-

- If using public transport (including the school service), pupils **must** wear facemasks on their journey to and from school. We have had a few issues with pupils taking their facemasks off as soon as the bus leaves the bus bay. Please reinforce that this is **mandatory** guidance. Also, we are continuing to monitor capacity on the bus services and will keep parents updated.
- At school, please reinforce that pupils must follow the one-way system around school. It is taking a bit of getting used to, but is for their own safety.
- Pupils must come to school fully equipped; this includes bringing water and snacks to school.
- Please support our uniform rules, especially regarding jewellery and haircuts; for the very small number of those pupils who are not wearing their uniform correctly, sanctions will be applied from Monday 14 September 2020.

Please note:

The **Pupil Portal** (where you can see all the attendance, progress, behaviour and achievement information) is moving to a new system, therefore you will not be able to see this for a few weeks. More information to follow about this.

Wisepay – As we have different year groups in the dining hall at different points of the day, it is proving very difficult for pupils to load money onto their accounts using the machine. Could I therefore please ask all parents to use 'Wisepay' to load money onto pupil accounts for the foreseeable future.

If travelling by car - Congestion around school between 3.00pm – 3.15pm has been severe in the first week. Rookery Avenue is an important pupil exit and therefore I always politely ask parents **not** to use our car park after school and this compromises pupil safety. Therefore, from **Monday 14 September 2020**, the gates to the car park **will be closed** between 2.50pm – 3.15pm. If you are picking your son or daughter up from school, could I please urge you to collect them from St Oswald's Church car park. I can assure you that this is the safest and quickest route out of school.

Many thanks for your ongoing support, which is greatly appreciated.

Yours faithfully

M J DUMICAN
Headteacher

