



# St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School

*Prepare the way of the Lord*

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Dear Parent or Carer

I hope that you and your families are well. I would like to say on behalf of my colleagues that we have missed the daily contact with our pupils and look forward to the day when we will all be together as a school community again.

With this in mind, I am pleased to inform you that, following the publication of Government guidance last week, I am now in a position to give you more details of our school opening in September.

Firstly, I would like to make it clear that the safety of our pupils and staff has been paramount in planning for the re-opening of the school. Whilst I know that most of our pupils have not been in school since March, I am sure that they will all quickly adjust to both being back in school and the new rules and procedures to keep everyone as safe as possible.

It is important to note that we have put several new processes in place for the partial re-opening for our Year 10 pupils, with our keyworker pupil group and have almost completed 3 weeks back in school. I am very pleased to report that this partial re-opening has gone remarkably smoothly and I would like to pay tribute to all the staff and pupils for making it work so well.

To ensure that all pupils know all of the expectations required of them upon their return in September, each year group will have an '**Orientation Day**', (in the same way Y10 pupils had prior to their return in June).

Therefore, there will be a staggered start to the school year, as follows:-

## **Orientation Days**

Week commencing 1 September 2020: (Y7 & Y11 only)

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY 1/9/2020 2/9/2020	THURSDAY 3/9/2020	FRIDAY 4/9/2020
STAFF INSET	Orientation Day for Y7 & Y11 followed by teaching of timetable	Y7 & Y11 pupils follow timetable

Week commencing 7 September 2020: (Staggered start for Y8, Y9, Y10)

MONDAY 7/9/2020	TUESDAY 8/9/2020	WEDNESDAY 9/9/20
Orientation Day for Y10 followed by teaching of timetable Y7 & Y11 follow timetable	Orientation Day for Y9 followed by teaching of timetable Y7, Y10 & Y11 follow timetable	Orientation Day for Y8 followed by teaching of timetable Y7, Y9, Y10 & Y11 follow timetable

Please read the **important information notice** attached to this letter.

Taking into account safety concerns and ensuring the educational experience is as good as it has always been, I believe that we have struck the right balance in these plans to get all of our pupils back to school in September.

I hope that this letter and the **important information notice** has re-assured you that, even if your son or daughter is feeling a little nervous about returning, we have taken the appropriate steps to keep them safe. We will be reassuring them during the **orientation days** that as long as they follow our guidelines, the risks of catching coronavirus in school is very low.

Communication will be even more important than usual during the next 12 months and there is no doubt I will be writing to you with more information at regular intervals, in particular in September as finer details are established. I will write to you again next week with my end of year letter, however, if you do have any questions or queries about September please feel free to call the school on the number above.

Finally, on a completely different note, our '*Summer Concert*' will be available on the school website today - <https://www.arrowsmith.wigan.sch.uk/summer-concert-2020>. To watch our amazingly talented pupils (and some staff!) perform as groups or as solo artists, I would highly recommend setting aside some time to watch it.

These are strange and unusual times but please rest assured that we will make the return to school as safe and as reassuring as we possibly can.

Thank you for your continued support, it is always greatly appreciated, we look forward to welcoming your son or daughter back to school in September.

Yours faithfully



**M J DUMICAN**  
**Headteacher**

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THE RETURN TO SCHOOL**

**All pupils** will be following their normal timetable from **Thursday 10 September 2020**.

In taking this course of action, I am confident that all pupils will receive the information they need to ensure that all safety measures and procedures are met. Pupils will come home after their orientation sessions with packs of information containing their timetables, the school rules along with health & safety procedures that must be followed. This will be explained to them by their form tutors and members of the senior leadership team, so that pupils are absolutely clear about what is expected of them. It is necessary to take this little bit of extra time to ensure the first term runs as smoothly as possible.

### **Key Rules:**

In terms of knowing what works well whilst providing a meaningful educational experience for all pupils, we have learned a lot over from the partial reopening of school in June and July, therefore we will be implementing the same key principles in September.

I would now like to bring to your attention the 'non-negotiables', every pupil will be expected to comply with the following in full:-

1. **In accordance with Government guidance**, if your child displays **ANY** coronavirus symptoms **THEY MUST NOT BE SENT TO SCHOOL**. A test must be booked for them using the online NHS testing and tracing for coronavirus website. Staff will be following the same protocol.

Please inform school **immediately** that you have the results of the test. **If the test is positive** the pupil **must self-isolate for 7 days** from the onset of the symptoms and only return when they no longer display any symptoms, even if this is more than the 7 days. All other members of the household **must self-isolate for 14 days**. If any pupil develops symptoms during the school day we will contact parents to pick them up as soon as possible and take the necessary actions to keep them and the staff safe.

2. **ALL** pupils must wash/sanitise their hands when they enter school, at break time, at lunch time and when they enter any classroom.
3. **ALL** pupils **MUST FOLLOW** the one-way system around school, with no exceptions.
4. **ALL** pupils **MUST GO** to their allocated place for break and lunch times.
5. **ALL** pupils **MUST** follow our new behaviour policy rules.
6. **ALL** pupils **MUST** go straight to their designated area when they arrive in school and use their designated exit when leaving school.

### **Behaviour**

**Revised expectations of behaviour and codes of practice** will be clearly explained to all pupils on their orientation days. **Compliance is essential** to ensure the safety and well-being of all staff and pupils. We will ask the parents of any pupils found wilfully breaking any of the rules or disregarding procedures to pick them up as soon as possible.

## **Controls**

Enhanced cleaning around school, including classrooms between lessons, will be the central focus of our system of controls. Year group 'bubbles' will be created. To do this we will introduce split break and lunch times for different year groups. Also, different year groups will have designated spaces in the school where they must gather on arrival at school and spend their breaks and lunchtimes. Departures from school will also be zoned and staggered according to year groups.

## **Travelling to School**

If possible, we would like to encourage pupils to walk or cycle to school. Where this is not possible and you intend to bring your child in by car, please drop them off on **St Oswald's Church car park**, this is our only dedicated drop-off point. I politely request that parents **do not drive** along Rookery Avenue, as this causes significant congestion and safety concerns.

You should have completed a travel survey, distributed last week via email about getting to school. The deadline for this is **Friday**, information retrieved from this will help us formulate plans for the arrangements of school bus services in September.

If your child will catch the bus to school, please read the latest guidance by [clicking here](#). Pupils must wear a face mask and have a valid bus pass. Face masks must be stored or disposed of in accordance with government guidelines. Staff will be on duty in the bus bay before and after school to guide pupils on to and off the buses in year groups.

## **Uniform**

Pupils are expected to wear full school uniform on their return in September. You may wish to make sure they have a black outdoor coat for cold or inclement days as the one-way system around school means they will be walking outside. It is worth pointing out that piercings and/or haircuts that are 'extreme' are not allowed, giving you enough notice to get any inappropriate 'looks' sorted out before September. Please refer to the website for our full school uniform rules.

## **GCSE 2021 (Y11 Information only)**

Exams will take place in summer 2021, but with adaptations. Ofqual are consulting on arrangements for those exams, including measures to mitigate any impact on pupils of time out of school. This could be reductions in coverage of the syllabus or other measures and the exam season will be pushed back to later dates. During next year, I will of course write to you as soon as I have further details of the measures to be implemented.