



St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School

Prepare the way of the Lord

Rookery Avenue,
Ashton-in-Makerfield,
Wigan, WN4 9PF
Telephone: 01942 728651
Email: office@arrowsmith.wigan.sch.uk
Web: <http://www.arrowsmith.wigan.sch.uk>
Headteacher: Mr. M. J. Dumican
B.A. (Hons), PGCE, NPQH, MSc, MEd

23 August 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

The end of the summer holidays is fast approaching and the start of your child's journey at St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School begins. I thought that it would be a good time to remind you of some key information to assist with a smooth start to the term.

Following significant disruption due to the pandemic, we are hopeful school will return to "normal" from September. Contingency plans (outbreak management plans) will be in place outlining what we would do if pupils or staff test positive for COVID-19, or how we would operate if we were advised to take extra measures to help break chains of transmission. Given the detrimental impact that restrictions on education can have on children and young people, any measures would only ever be considered as a last resort and for the shortest amount of time possible.

Most information can be found in the New Intake Booklet provided in July, however some information may have changed or been updated since publication. Our website is a great source of information and I would recommend checking here regularly to keep up-to-date with what is happening in school.

September 2021 Start Dates and COVID Testing

Following government guidance we will be operating a staggered return to school in September, as follows:

Staff INSET Day	Wednesday 1 September 2021
YEAR 7 PUPILS ONLY	Thursday 2 September 2021
YEAR 11 & YEAR 10 PUPILS	Friday 3 September 2021
YEAR 9 PUPILS	Monday 6 September 2021
YEAR 8 PUPILS	Tuesday 7 September 2021

This staggered approach is necessary to allow for a comprehensive induction programme to be delivered and for 2 lateral flow tests to be administered to all pupils at our in-school lateral flow test facility.

YEAR GROUP	TEST 1: First day of School	TEST 2: 3 - 5 days
YEAR 7	02 September 2021	06 September 2021

Testing is not compulsory; however, we strongly recommend all pupils participate. You must give consent for testing and all information can be found in our COVID-19 section of the website. Once you have read the necessary documents you can then complete the consent form online.

WisePay

From 1st September you will have access to your child's WISEPAY account. This will enable you to load money onto their catering account to purchase items from the school catering facilities. We encourage ALL money to be loaded online and the revaluation unit in the dining room should only be used as a last resort. Queues can be long if all pupils put cash on during lunchtime and this can impact on their time available for eating their lunch. Change is not available from the Finance office therefore please do not send your child

into school with high value notes. Cheques are still acceptable, payable to Catering Academy Ltd and should be deposited in the "post box" in the dining room.

WisePay is also used to make payments online for music lessons, bus tickets (private 655 service only), building levy and school trips. Further details can be found on page 20 of the New Intake booklet and we have attached a "Parent Guide" to both the website and the app version.

Your unique username and password will be sent by post and will include the organisational number required for the app version only.

School Synergy

Further instructions and a detailed user guide will be provided once your child is in school.

School Buses

The bus timetables have been updated and are available on our website. It is important that you check and familiarise your child with the route they need to get to and from school, including if they stay behind for extra-curricular activities. There have been a number of changes, including bus numbers and all services (except 655 private service) are shared services with Byrchall High School.

Dropping off and collecting from School

Please **DO NOT** drive down Rookery Avenue to drop off or collect your child at the end of the school day. This is to reduce congestion and potential accidents when cars reverse into Ramsey Close. Our designated dropping off and collection point is St Oswald's Church car park on St Oswald's Road. The school gates will be closed between 2.50pm and 3.15pm to protect pupils at the end of the day. Pupils who are being collected by car will leave school via the rear entrance on St Oswald's Road and will have a 3-minute walk to the car park. Please do not park in the neighbouring streets around the school to minimise complaints we receive regarding parking across drives and restricting access for residents.

We implemented this system last year and the designated drop off/pick up car park has been a great success in keeping our pupils safer when entering/exiting the school site, I would implore you to adhere to this if your child will travel to school by car. Could you also please inform grandparents/ aunts/ uncles etc. who will help you with the school run to follow this procedure.

Hopefully you will have all the information you need to ensure your child is equipped for their first days at school. If you are unsure about anything or need clarification, please do not hesitate to contact school. There will be limited access by staff until the start of term, therefore it is best to send an email to the office or use the contact form on the website and a response will be actioned at the earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully



M J DUMICAN
Headteacher