



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 the new academic year 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.

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. <https://www.arrowsmith.wigan.sch.uk/>

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
YEAR 11	03 September 2021	07 September 2021
YEAR 10	03 September 2021	08 September 2021
YEAR 9	06 September 2021	09 September 2021
YEAR 8	07 September 2021	10 September 2021

Testing is not compulsory; however, we strongly recommend all pupils participate. If you have not already given consent and wish your child to be tested, please complete the consent form found in the COVID-19 information section on the website. <https://www.arrowsmith.wigan.sch.uk/covid-19-information>

WisePay

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.

The user guide is available on the website <https://www.arrowsmith.wigan.sch.uk/wisepay>

Reporting Absences

From September the MYED app will no longer be enabled to report a pupil absence. This can be done using:

- School Synergy (Guide attached)
- Telephone: 01942 728651 press 1 leaving your child's name, form, reason for absence and expected return date, if known.
- Email: pupilservices@arrowsmith.wigan.sch.uk

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.

- wearing face coverings is no longer a legal requirement on public transport but the government **expects and recommends** that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet
- on dedicated transport:
 - we recommend that children and young people aged 11 and over continue to wear a face covering when travelling to secondary school. (unless exempt)

PE Lessons

Pupils should attend school in full uniform and will be getting changed in school for PE lessons. Please ensure all appropriate kit and equipment is brought to school on the day required.

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 the start of term. 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