



# St Peter's Catholic High School

*A Specialist Visual Arts College*



MCG/SHA

20<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

As we come to the end of our school year I would like to thank you for your support and understanding in what has been the most difficult of years. There has been a great deal of disruption to pupils' learning as there has been across the country, but there has also been a tremendous sense of togetherness at St. Peter's as we work across staff, parents and pupils to achieve the best possible experience and to support each other.

We are all hoping that next academic year we are able to return to some sort of normality. I am writing to outline the expectations and arrangements for September so that you can plan accordingly. Some of these may be subject to change depending what happens with Covid-19 over the summer. If there are any significant changes over the break I will inform you of these as soon as possible.

## Uniform and Appearance.

We want to return to our full expectations on uniform in September. Due to a supply problem we allowed black trousers this year. From September this will not be allowed and **only brown trousers should be worn**. We plan to return to changing for PE, so **on PE days pupils should wear full school uniform and bring their PE kit to change into**. This is so that we can return to providing the full PE experience including activities where kit might get dirty and wet.

Our full **Uniform and PE Kit Policy** is on our website (I have attached a copy to your EduLink message) and we would ask you to check with this before buying any items. Please especially check the pages that show the school shoes that are and are not allowed. The Year 11 uniform is a beige jumper as shown in our guidance. This is worn without a blazer and is now the uniform for all Year 11 students regardless of their prefect status.

Students must be able to meet our expectations for personal appearance by the time they return in September including for hairstyles. After consultation with pupil groups we have slightly modified our expectation for hair to be 'hair of one natural colour, which must be maintained as one colour.' We have maintained our expectation that hair should be no shorter than a 'number 2' and that hair should not be over pupils' eyes.

These rules are part of the high standards of our school that all pupils and parents agree to on joining us and I thank you for helping us to maintain this.

Howards Lane, Orrell, Wigan WN5 8NU

Tel: 01942 747693

Email: [enquiries@admin.saintpetershigh.wigan.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@admin.saintpetershigh.wigan.sch.uk)

Web: [www.saintpetershigh.wigan.sch.uk](http://www.saintpetershigh.wigan.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mr. A. McGlown M.A. (Oxon) N.P.Q.H

### Equipment.

Each pupil should bring a pencil case with pens, pencil, sharpener, eraser, ruler, a glue stick, a few coloured pencils (red, blue, yellow, green), a highlighter, a protractor, a pair of compasses and a scientific calculator (preferably CASIO). Pupils were issued with a mini white board each this year, they should bring these in September if possible. Year 7 will all be issued with one. Pupils having their own equipment not only helps the smooth running of the school but reduces the need to share and the risk of passing Covid on. If there are any financial difficulties with equipment, please let us know and we will try to help out.

### The School Day.

During the pandemic we have changed our timetable to a three-period day over two weeks. Feedback from staff, pupils and parents suggests that this has brought some significant benefits and we have decided to continue with this structure in 2021/22. This will allow us to evaluate the benefits of 3 longer lessons without some of the constraints of the 'bubble' system and decide whether to continue with this in subsequent years.

Your child's timetable will be shown as a **3-period day over 2 school weeks** (Week 1 and Week 2)

The timings of the school day will be:

Start of School 9.00am. *Pupils arriving in their Form Rooms after 9.00am are late.*

9.00- 9.20am Registration & Form Time

9.20- 11.00am     Period 1

11.00-11.15am    BREAK

11.15- 12.50pm    Period 2

12.50-1.40pm     LUNCH

1.40pm- 3.20pm    Period 3

Classes will be dismissed gradually from 3.15pm (Year 11) to 3.20pm (Year7)

### Break and Lunchtime Arrangements.

We have noticed a number of benefits from pupils having outdoor time at break and lunch. We intend to continue with this so that pupils are **outside at break and lunch** unless taking part in an activity or club inside. We will have a wet weather plan but pupils should bring coats (one plain colour and big enough to go over their blazer) in order to be outside. Hoodies are not allowed.

### Arrangements for the Start of the Year and Asymptomatic Testing.

We have been asked by the Government to set up on site asymptomatic testing for all pupils at the start of September. As pupils will potentially mix with lots of other people during the summer holidays, all pupils will be offered 2 on-site lateral flow tests 3-5 days apart. This will operate as it did in March. It is not compulsory – if you gave consent for pupils in Year 7-10 this year we will not need to ask you again for consent. If your child will be in Year 7 in September, consents will be collected through EduLink; please watch out for a message on this from next week. Whilst this is not compulsory the higher the number of pupils who test,

the greater confidence we can have that pupils do not have Covid without symptoms and the safer we can make our school. I would urge you to let your child take part in it to improve everyone's safety. Pupils will then be encouraged to test regularly at home. Staff will also be asked to test regularly at home.

In order to undertake the initial tests, we will need a staggered start to the term:

Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	9.00am Year 7 11.00am Year11
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	9.00am Year 8 11.00am Year 10
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	9.00am Year 9

**The pupils starting at 11.00am must only come in for that time and not use the school buses in the morning.** I apologise for any inconvenience for this first day but it is the only way we can keep groups separate before they are tested.

Once they have tested, pupils will remain in school unless they show a positive result. Pupils will be offered their 2<sup>nd</sup> test in school between Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> and Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September.

#### Removal of Bubbles, Tracing Close Contacts and Isolation.

From September, schools will not be required to operate 'Bubbles'. We will be able to re-commence activities which involve pupils in different age groups working together. This is very welcome news as we hope to be able to run a range of clubs and activities involving groups from more than one Year group.

A local area may be told to re-introduce bubbles for a temporary period if Covid-19 cases are particularly high. We have a plan to do this if required.

**From August 16<sup>th</sup> children under the age of 18 will no longer be required to isolate** if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive Covid-19 case. Instead they will be informed they have been a close contact and advised to take a PCR test. Positive cases of Covid-19 will still need to isolate by law for 10 days.

#### Face Coverings on Transport and In School.

Government guidance has been changed to expect that face coverings are worn on both Public and School Transport. **It will be a school rule that face coverings / masks are worn on school buses** (unless exempt) until such time as we can safely remove this rule. The DFE have said face coverings will not be required in school either in corridors or classrooms, though this could be re-introduced temporarily if there were to be an outbreak.

Other Safety Measures in School. Other measures in school will continue to apply to keep everyone as safe as possible. These include:

- Not attending school if you feel ill with possible symptoms, now including a headache or sore throat – please don't 'chance it' - **Get A PCR Test!**
- Continued focus on hand hygiene, washing and sanitising hands.
- Continued focus on respiratory hygiene, 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it'.
- Continued enhanced cleaning programme.
- Continuing to ask for no more than 2 in a toilet block at any one time.

- One-way system at lesson change-overs on corridors.
- Continuing not to bring cash into school but to put money onto accounts at home using ScoPay

These measures cause only minor inconvenience and can help significantly.

#### Changes to School Buses

There are some quite significant changes to some of the school bus services for September. The Yellow school buses are being retired and some of the operators have changed. The main changes are in Standish and Shevington. There will be school buses for all of the children from these areas but the routes and the timings are changing. I attach the full information to this letter so that you can look at the appropriate bus route in detail. I have included the contact details of the operators, so if you have any queries please contact them directly in the first instance. **Please make sure you understand the new bus routes in advance of September.**

#### Catch-up and Year 11 Exams

As we plan for next year, we are looking to use any extra resources to help pupils regain their confidence and catch up lost learning. St. Peter's pupils have done really well with their on-line learning and teachers will use the evidence they have from class to plan ways to plug any gaps, but we feel pupils need as much opportunity to take part in extra-curricular activities as possible and build up social skills. Encouraging them to do so might help them feel that school life is getting 'back to normal'

We are awaiting information from the DFE on the **changes they are proposing to alter GCSE and other exams** in the light of the experience Year 10 have had of the pandemic. We will share this information with you as soon as it is published, but I wanted you to know that plans that should help are on the way.

We learn most about our communities when we face challenging times. I have learnt that we have an amazing set of resilient and positive pupils, supportive and understanding parents, and a staff who will do everything they can to help the pupils thrive. We are truly at our best when we fulfil our mission statement to be a 'Learning and Serving Community Enriched Through Friendship and Christian Faith'.

I wish you and your families a restful and enjoyable summer holiday when it comes.

Yours sincerely,



A. McGlown  
Headteacher