



Saint Benedict
A Catholic Voluntary Academy

Our ref: KEG/MM

3 September 2021

Dear Parents & Carers

I hope you are all well and we are looking forward very much to seeing your children back in school next week, hopefully having had a good rest over the summer. Just a reminder that we welcome back all of our Year 7s, 11s and 13s on Monday 6 September and all pupils return on Tuesday 7 September.

We have spent 2 days at the end of this week preparing for the new term, ensuring that all of our children continue to receive an excellent education. While the pandemic has caused some restrictions over the last 18 months, we have been managing these and forging ahead with improving teaching and learning and the quality of support all of our children receive. Our staff are very much looking forward to welcoming the pupils back and will be delivering the most carefully planned broad and rich curriculum we have ever offered our pupils here at Saint Benedict.

From next week, there will still be some measures in place to reduce the risk of transmission of Corona Virus. Can I ask that you please ensure that your children continue to be tested twice weekly (testing kits are available at your local pharmacy, and we have a limited number in school), and that you encourage them to continue to sanitise their hands at points throughout the day. All students will be tested on the morning of their return. All students that we have consent for will administer a self-test in form time, supervised by their form tutor. Their second test will be on Friday of next week. Any pupils who test positive will be sent home to take a PCR test to confirm whether this is a positive case. They should remain at home as a precaution until the result comes through. If the PCR test is positive, they should remain at home for 10 days until they are no longer symptomatic. Please note that it is now no longer necessary for contacts to isolate and this includes family members. This means that if one member of the family tests positive, other members of the family **are not required to isolate** but must take a daily lateral flow test. As long as they test negative, they can continue to go to school or work. This is an important difference from the previous arrangements and one which will ensure that our children can maintain good attendance at school and have less disruption to their education.

With regard to face coverings, while the Government no longer mandate these by law, they are insisting the children still wear face coverings when they use transport to and from school. I would be grateful if you could continue to send your child to school with a face covering if they use the bus. We are recommending that pupils do continue to wear a face covering when they are inside, however, this is no longer an expectation and so pupils and staff only need to wear face coverings inside if they wish to. It is worth noting that we recorded far fewer cases at Saint Benedict when staff and pupils were wearing face coverings which is why we recommend still wearing them indoors and corridors/classrooms, however, we appreciate that this can be uncomfortable for some pupils. If there are any outbreaks of cases we may be directed by the local Director of Public Health to make face coverings mandatory again.



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St Ralph
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Catholic Multi Academy Trust



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We will continue to ensure that classrooms are well ventilated and that there is a vigorous cleaning regime at the school. If there are any patterns of cases in particular year groups we may contact you for all children in that year group to test daily on the advice of the local Director of Public Health, in the meantime we would be very grateful if you could ensure that your children are tested twice weekly.

Thanks as always for your support and for working together as we head into a new school year.

Yours sincerely

Kevin Gritton
Headteacher



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