

St Augustine's RC High School

Newsletter
November 2020

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Dear families,

I would like to thank you for your continued support at a time when greater numbers of our pupils are having to self-isolate both due to family self-isolation and proximity contact within school. So far this term 552 different pupils have not been able to attend due to COVID19 restrictions, ranging from 1 day to several weeks. These pupils receive an "X" code which does not count against them for their attendance record, but this should not diminish the impact on the continuity of their education. While teachers are setting work for pupils online and allowing individuals to "dial-in" to some lessons, there is no substitute to face to face teaching and learning in the classroom. This concern has been expressed in a joint letter from Headteachers across Lancashire, West Yorkshire, Greater Manchester and the West Midlands to the Department for Education, highlighting the discrepancies in attendance between schools, and within schools, due to Coronavirus restrictions. We hope that some consideration to the uneven distribution of enforced absence is applied when the final grades are being allocated to our Year 11 pupils at the end of the year. *Mr Wright*

Remote Learning

When pupils are required to self isolate, work will be available via Microsoft Teams, which can be supplemented through Oak National Academy and other online platforms if additional work is required. Pupils should access Teams on a device at home (we recommend a laptop / tablet rather than a phone) and check each class Team on their timetable that day. Work is in one of the **channels** (labelled *classwork* or *self isolation work*). For some subjects this will be a "pack" of work that will last for the period of isolation, for some subjects work will be set on a lesson by lesson basis, and some teachers may provide the option to access the lesson in real time for certain lessons. Pupils have been shown how to access this work by their individual class teachers. Before contacting school for advice, please click the "Remote Learning Guidance for Families" button on the school website for a "how to" guide on accessing work remotely, as well as links to additional work that pupils can do if they complete the classwork set by their teachers.

Year 11 Report

Year 11 will be receiving a progress report in the last week of term which will reflect the recent formal assessments taken in school. A presentation on revision techniques that has been delivered to Year 11 in study sessions will also be made available to support families in advance of the February mock exams.

Testing and Attendance

NHS guidance states that you should get a coronavirus test if at least one of the following applies: a high temperature, a new, continuous cough; loss or change of sense of smell or taste. If this is the case then a family member is deemed to be symptomatic and family members should also be self isolating. **You must not send children into school if any household member is displaying symptoms or awaiting a test result** as this increases the risk to other families if a positive test is confirmed.

Lunches

A limited range of hot food is now available in the lunchtime grab bags and there is also a limited break time service of sausage and bacon rolls or pizza, with priority to older year groups. Due to the colder and wetter weather, pupils have access to indoor areas and outdoor shelters for eating following a rota system. To reduce the risk of spreading the virus, pupils will be encouraged to be outside whenever possible.

Coats

Please ensure that pupils are wearing appropriate school coats. We ask that pupils coats are a plain colour and without obvious designer logos. Shower proof coats provide the best protection against the elements and we would discourage the recent fashion for “fluffy” coats which absorb water and increase humidity in the building when pupils come inside. Denim and leather (look) jackets and hoodies are not allowed. Scarves, gloves and hats may be worn in cold weather.

Umbrellas

Pupils are allowed to bring umbrellas to school but these must be the retractable type that can fold into a bag and not the walking stick type.



Face Coverings

All pupils must wear face coverings in communal areas in school and on school buses. We are advising pupils to bring a spare mask as many of the disposable type tend to break with use. Those with medical exemption should wear their lanyards so they can be clearly seen.

Parking

A request from our neighbours—please be respectful of the needs of local residents when parking. Please do not block driveways and ensure that your parking does not cause an obstruction to other drivers or those using the pavements, including pushchair / wheelchair users. This may require pupils having to walk a little further but should alleviate the pressure on traffic outside school. Also, please avoid parking on Elker Lane as this creates a hazard for buses needing to access the turning circle.

Online Safety

For the latest guidance for families on online safety, please follow this link.
www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers



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