

St Joseph's Catholic Academy

A Leading Edge Technology & Applied Learning College

Mill Lane, Hebburn, Tyne and Wear, NE31 2ET

Telephone: 0191 428 2700



Email: Office@stjosephs.uk.net

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Fax: 0191 428 4053

Headteacher: Mr P Mitchell

Chair of Directors: Mrs G Kilgour

16th July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we come to the end of another school year, I would like once again to thank you for your continued support in what has been a period of great challenge for all of us. **As a reminder, end of term finish is Friday 23rd July 12.15 finish; Scholars buses will be available.**

The introduction of strict guidelines associated with COVID-19 since the end of March has led to different ways of working for all staff and students. You will be aware that the Government has announced that a number of restrictions will be lifted in time for the return of students in September. The Government has provided guidance for schools to follow in order to plan for the safe return of all students.

As I am sure you will appreciate, a significant amount of work is required to put in place the appropriate interventions and adaptations to enable us to reopen safely. Our priority, as always, will be to provide as safe an environment as possible to minimise any risk for both staff and students.

We will continue to operate a series of systems to ensure everyone remains safe, and it is important that you and your child are aware of these measures.

Risk assessments and continued control measures

We will continue to have a risk assessment in place in order to comply with health and safety law and put in place proportionate control measures. These are the control measures set out in the guidance:

- Hand hygiene
- Respiratory hygiene
- Appropriate cleaning schedule
- Keeping rooms well ventilated
- Following Public Health advice on testing; self isolation of those with symptoms; positive cases, and those with a positive case in their household

Changes to current requirements

Face coverings will no longer be advised for students, staff or visitors. These will also no longer be required on school transport or legally required on public transport. The guidance does specify that the decision may be made to reinstate face coverings in conjunction with Public Health, depending on the case rates in September in South Tyneside.

The guidance no longer recommends 'bubbles' for the Autumn term (however, in some local areas it may be necessary to reintroduce bubbles for a temporary period on the recommendation of the Public Health team).

Parents/Carers: Stay Alert. Keep your child at home if they have Covid-19 symptoms. Stay Safe.

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From 16th August 2021 children under 18 will no longer be required to self-isolate if contacted by test and trace as a close contact. Instead they will be advised to take a PCR test (18 year olds will be treated in the same way until 4 months after their 18th birthday to enable them to get fully vaccinated). In short, schools will not be required to send students home if they are identified as a close contact.

Schools will no longer be required to do close contact tracing from July 19th. Close contacts will be identified by test and trace.

In addition, we have also updated our risk assessment which can be viewed on our website from the 'School Life' menu in the 'Covid-19' section. This will include an outbreak management section. We will continue to upload any further information as required should the situation change either regionally or nationally.

Asymptomatic Testing

Over the summer students are not required to continue to test regularly unless they are attending a summer school. Schools have therefore not been issued test kits to provide for all students during the summer. However, testing will still be widely available and kits can be collected from local pharmacies so I would encourage students and families to continue to undertake regular testing.

When students return in September schools are required to offer two onsite Lateral Flow Tests 3 to 5 days apart. The first of these tests should be the day before their first day of return, so in order to accommodate this schools are able to have a staggered return for students

Staggered Return Dates

In order to provide our students with the best possible start to the new term and introduce them to the new procedures we are putting into place, we will be operating a staggered start to the first week back as detailed below. We also need to fit in with the government requirement to test all students twice upon their return to school in September.

(Further details around the timetable for pupil lateral flow testing will be shared separately).

Monday 6 th September	Staff INSET
Tuesday 7 th September	Year 7
Wednesday 8 th September	Year 7, Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 students only
Thursday 9 th September	Years 7, 8, 10,11, 12 and 13 (but not year 9)
Friday 10 th September	All students in school Years 7-13

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School Day Timings:

Our school day timings remain as usual: students will be expected to arrive by 8.40am and the school day will finish at 3:00pm.

Behaviour Expectations

It is important that parents are aware that teachers are in the position of parents/carers whilst students are in school. It is essential that students follow our Behaviour Policy to ensure the safety of students, staff and their families. We appreciate your full support in working together to maintain our high expectations of behaviour and uniform. Our school Behaviour and Uniform Policies can be found on our school website in the 'Our School' menu in the 'Policies' section.

Contact Details

If your child is unwell or we need to contact you regarding behaviour it is vital school has the correct contact details for you and those of two other emergency contacts.

Please make sure that your contact details are up-to-date and where you might be unavailable due to work, you have provided the contact details of another trusted adult. If you need to update us: please email: office@stjosephs.uk.net

If you need to update some contact information please complete a separate [Student/Parent Information Form](#) for each child at St Joseph's Catholic Academy.

We have a number of new staff joining our school community in September and some existing staff taking on new roles. I'd like to take this opportunity to share some key appointments with you.

Appointments for September

Deputy Headteacher (Teaching & Learning)	Mrs S. Lewis-Dale
Assistant Headteacher (6th Form Lead)	Mrs C. Curry
Curriculum Leader English	Mrs S. O'Connor
Curriculum Leader MFL	Mrs C. Anderson
Assistant Head of Bede House	Mr L. Baxendale
Site Supervisor	Mr M. Scott

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Please be aware that Mrs C. Hammill Deputy Headteacher Pastoral is returning from maternity leave and continues to be our Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Finally, on behalf of all staff and Governors, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a safe and enjoyable summer.

Take care and God Bless.

Mr P. Mitchell
Headteacher

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