St. Gregory's Catholic High School

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Headteacher Mr E McGlinchey BSc (Hons) NPQH & NPQEL

Our ref; EMcG/SH 19th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are all keeping well. I am writing an interim letter to keep you informed about some forthcoming items for you to take note of. I will of course write a more detailed end of term letter to you around mid-December.

Earlier finish on the last day of autumn term

Our last day of the autumn term will be Wednesday 22nd December and **we will close the school to pupils at the slightly earlier time of 1pm**. School will then reopen for the spring term on Monday 10th January 2022 to accommodate teacher-training events.

The bus companies will be informed of the earlier finish and any pupil entitled to a free school meal on the second lunch will have a meal provided for them in a grab bag.

The 'Parent App'

I am pleased that we will soon be launching our 'Parent App' for all parents and carers to use. The app will enhance our communication with you and will inform about: Attendance, Behaviour, Achievements, Event Reminders, Enrichment / After School Activities, Newsletters, School Messages, School Reports and Assessment Data, School Calendar and a Meal / trip payment feature.

We are looking to launch this app before the end of term and this will provide an opportunity to resolve any slight teething problems as our community adjusts to it.

Face Coverings and Covid-19 procedures

St Gregory's is *currently* doing well in terms of managing covid-19, attendance to school and infection rates and this is very positive. However, we are all aware of how quickly this situation can change and there is every possibility that without hard work on the part of parents, pupils, staff and the wider community, that we could very easily face disruption in the future.

Overall, I am very pleased with how your children have maturely responded to all requirements. It is a credit to the children and you, parents and carers that we are doing well with the pandemic as things stand.

To continue to combat the pandemic, can I ask that you ensure that your child is sent to school with a face covering. We are handing out an increasing amount of these and we only have limited stock. Therefore, if pupils bring their own face covering this would be very helpful.

Pupils are only required to wear a face covering for around 5% of the school day, this includes when walking inside the corridor areas, lining up for a lesson in the corridor, attending collective worship in the theatre and when **not**

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eating in the canteen spaces. Pupils do not require a face covering when in the classroom, anywhere outside or when eating in the canteen spaces.

We also have a strict circulation system in school and it is important that pupils always follow this system. Please continue to ensure your child takes regular lateral flow tests and always take your child for a PCR test if they have symptoms.

As stated earlier, I will write to you in a more detailed manner in my end of term letter but for now I would like to wish you a good weekend and I look forward to working with you in close partnership as always.

Yours sincerely,

Ed McGlinchey

Headteacher