

# St. Gregory's Catholic High School

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Telephone: 01925 574888



**Headteacher**  
**Mr E McGlinchey BSc (Hons) NPQH & NPQEL**

7<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Return to school – January 10<sup>th</sup> 2022**

Firstly, I hope that you and your families have managed to have a very enjoyable and restful Christmas and New Year period.

I write to you as a follow up to my letter at the end of the autumn term dated 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

As you will be fully aware, the nation is very much in the grip of record levels of covid infection rates and this has the potential to cause considerable disruption to education.

St Gregory's have a good record of managing covid infections and outbreaks and we dealt with lower than average rates of covid related incidents in the autumn term, as a result of sensible and vigilant standards of safety by everyone in our community.

This term, we hope to continue our positive management of covid related issues but we will be required to step up our procedures in line with updated government guidance in a bid to keep our school safe and to maintain an uninterrupted education.

Below, you will find information concerning updates to safety standards in school that will be in place until further review towards the end of January, but more likely up until half term on February 18<sup>th</sup> 2022. This will cover a 30 school day period.

**Testing your child for covid-19 ahead before returning to school** - It is absolutely critical that you have your child tested BEFORE they return to school using the lateral flow tests that were provided by the school, so that any potential viral loads are not brought into the school community and so that your child can safely isolate at home during any infection period. If you do not have a testing kit for your child, these can be obtained from your local pharmacies.

**Testing schedule in school on 10<sup>th</sup> / 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022** – On return to school, all pupils will take one lateral flow test in controlled conditions in school. Years 7, 10 and 11 will receive their test on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January and Years 8 and 9 will receive their test on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January. The entire testing process for your child takes approximately 15 minutes.

**Face Coverings** – As announced by the government, face covering will now be required to be worn everywhere in school by pupils, including classrooms. Pupils will not be required to wear a face covering when they are outside.

*One family... inspired to learn.'*

SEAL *it with* RESPECT

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The face coverings guidance will be reviewed by the government towards the end of January so it could be that this is only in force for a number of weeks. If your child has a medical exemption, they will not be required to wear a face covering.

Can you please ensure that you send your child to school with a face covering in line with the governments guidance and also to ensure the good safety and consideration of the rest of the community.

A number of pupils were arriving at school before the end of term without their own face covering, however the school do not have an endless supply of face coverings and it is important that you provide your own for your child.

**Additional school based procedures** – The school will return to a managed seating plan in classrooms with reduced movement for this half term (reviewed at the end of January), this is similar to previous measures that have been in school. The teacher will do the majority of circulating in class.

All pupils must hand sanitise on entry to classrooms. Hand sanitiser is available in every classroom and is topped up by the site management team.

There will be occasions where ventilation is improved through the opening of windows for a temporary period during lessons – this will usually be for around 10/15 minutes and simply follows guidance.

There is a strict circulation system route in school and pupils will be reminded of the correct routes to follow, to ensure that parts of the school corridors do not become crowded.

Collective worship and assemblies will now not take place in year groups in the theatre, these will now be delivered 'virtually' and in small class settings with no more than 30 pupils.

**The Year 11 parents evening will be moved to a virtual event.** Please be assured that any information that parents do not receive on the evening, parents will be able to liaise with school staff on a continuous basis to ensure that you are able to address any gaps not covered in the virtual event, given the limited meeting time available.

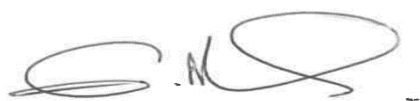
All of the above procedures are the main actions that will be in place over the course of the half term, a full risk assessment will be placed on the school website. As indicated, we expect these procedures to be in place until February half term but we will keep everything under review and also follow any updated government guidance as and when it is announced.

The school's intention is to keep everyone safe and we fully appreciate your support with all temporary measures that will be in place.

My deputy heads, Miss Lavin and Mrs McKenna will continue to communicate with you about teaching and learning / remote learning provision and pastoral matters all throughout the next six weeks as and when required and to keep you informed along with my own whole school communications to you.

Please now enjoy the rest of the holiday period and I very much look forward to welcoming your children back to school safely on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at the normal school start time. Do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions or comments regarding any content within this letter.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Ed McGlinchey  
Headteacher