



# ST MARGARET WARD CATHOLIC ACADEMY



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Principal: Mr. D. McKenna B.Soc.Sc. MA. PGCE. NPQH.

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Dear Parent / Carer

## ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE START OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-2022 NEW YEAR 12 AND 13 STUDENTS

May I start thanking you for your continued support and help over the course of what has been a very challenging academic year. I am writing to give you all information about the start of the academic year, which commences for staff and students in the week commencing 6 September 2021.

As I am sure you are aware we will be moving to Stage 4 on the Governments roadmap from 19 July. There are a number of implications for school mostly meaning that we are returning to close to normal after the summer break.

When we return in September, students will no longer be in bubbles and there will be no requirement to wear face coverings or to socially distance when dropping off or collecting your children. We will be able to return to gathering together, for example in assemblies and will of course be returning to welcoming parents and carers to school to attend events etc.

To reduce the risk of spreading any infections we will, of course, be continuing to ensure all members of the school community follow good hygiene procedure. We will continue with regular hand sanitising, cleaning around the school particularly frequently touched spots and we will continue to ensure there is good ventilation around the school.

Please could you take time to read the below government advice that will support you. You can find further information here:

[Step 4 update - what parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/step-4-update-what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges)

### The start of the academic year

At the time of writing, we have been asked to ensure that all students either starting or returning to school are invited to take part in testing of students for COVID-19, so that we can start the year as safely as possible. This is strongly advised by the government and also the school however, it is not compulsory. We have been asked to do this twice at the start of the academic year, between 3 and 5 days apart.

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**If you require this information in a different format, please contact the school.**



If you would like your son / daughter to take part in the testing (which we would strongly advise), your son / daughter will need to do a few things first:

- 1) If they have already given consent for testing, they will not need to redo the consent form. If they did not fill out the consent form last year and they now wish to, please may I ask that they fill out a consent form first. ALL CONSENT FORMS need to be completed by **WEDNESDAY 21 JULY** please. We are unable to process the test without their consent. You will find a link to the consent form on the home page of the school website: <https://stmargaretward.co.uk/>
- 2) Either you will need to bring your son / daughter to St Margaret Ward on **Tuesday 7 September** at the following times or they will need to make their own way to school:
  - a. Surname: A to G: From 1.00 pm
  - b. Surname: H to M: From 1.45 pm
  - c. Surname: N to Z: From 2.15 pm

**Students will only be in school for 15-20 minutes maximum.**

**Once your son / daughter has completed the self-administered test, they will return home with you or by themselves.** The test does not hurt and previous tests have involved a simple swabbing of the tonsil area and also up one nostril. Staff will be on hand to explain this to them. A video of what this looks like can be found here: <https://twitter.com/educationgovuk/status/1409081631143518209?s=20>.

They will have the option of completing a straightforward form on their mobile device, which will then relay to them the result of the test. Any student who does test positive must follow the guidelines of the government and self-isolate for 10 days (at the time of writing and this is subject to change.)

**We will only contact people who test positive and if you do not hear from us, then please take this to mean that all is fine.**

All Post 16 students who test negative will be able to then attend SMWCA Post 16 for their first 'Induction Morning' on Wednesday 8 September 2021. Lessons for all Post 16 students including travel to and from our other Trinity Post 16 providers will start from after lunch.

### **Arrangements for the first full day of Post 16 life**

- All Post 16 students must attend school from Wednesday 8 September 2021.
- All Post 16 students should meet in the PE Courtyard and Canopy area by 8.30 am. The school day for all Year Groups starts at 8.40 am.
- Students should access this area of the school by walking down the main path of the school, into the main building through the pupil entrance; walking down the main corridor of the school and then turning right into the PE Courtyard area.
- All students are expected to be dressed appropriately for Post 16 studies and in line with the Trinity Dress Code from this date onwards.
- In line with the attendance policy of the Trinity Sixth Form, students should be punctual and have all of the equipment for learning with them at all times.
- If your son / daughter is following a sports-based course, they may need their sports kit with them.
- It is important to note that all students ought to have a coat, preferably waterproof and with a hood, as we approach the Autumn weather.

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- On Wednesday 8 September in the morning, all students will take part in our bespoke 'Orientation' session, which will guide all of our community into 'how we do things' as members of our school community. This 'sets the scene' in terms of high standards and expectations that we have for each and every one of our students.
- Your son / daughter should buy their own diary or planner, so that they can record what they have to do outside of taught lesson time. They will be given a copy of their timetable in due course, and initially will be informed which lessons they have and when.
- We operate a two-week timetable and all Post 16 students will start on week 1 of the timetable.
- Please note that the school teaching day finishes for the whole community at 3.00 pm and all students will be leaving the site at the same time.

### Arrangements for break time and lunch times

- For the first few weeks of the Autumn term, we will be keeping our Year Groups separate at break and lunch times. This is so that we can ensure that if there are any positive cases of COVID that minimal numbers of students will be affected. We have received some guidance from the Government about what we need to do, but as I am sure you'll be aware, things may change quite rapidly.

### If things change...

- We recognise that the Government may have to respond to any possible rise in cases and I would like to reassure you that as a community, we have plans in place to make rapid adjustments to school life.
- As always, we will keep you as informed as we can do. I would invite you to follow our social media presence in the following places:
  - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stmargaretward>
  - SMW Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/st\\_margaret\\_ward\\_catholic\\_acad/](https://www.instagram.com/st_margaret_ward_catholic_acad/)
  - Twitter: <https://twitter.com/StMargaretWard>
  - Trinity Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=trinity%20sixth%20form%20smwca>
  - Trinity Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/smwtrinitysixthform/>

If you have any questions about anything related to school, please do not hesitate to contact either Mrs Rhodes (Head of Post 16 – [prhodes@smwca.org.uk](mailto:prhodes@smwca.org.uk)) or Mr Johnson (Vice Principal – [pjohnson@smwca.org.uk](mailto:pjohnson@smwca.org.uk)).

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very safe, pleasant and well-earned summer break and we look forward to welcoming your child into their new year group in September 2021.

Live Jesus in Our Hearts...Forever.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Johnson  
Vice Principal

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