



ST MARGARET WARD CATHOLIC ACADEMY



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04B/COVIDUPDATEADDITIONALMEASURES/PJ/LB

12th November 2021

COVID-19 UPDATE AND ADDITIONAL MEASURES

Dear Parent / Carer

As we approach the end of the first two weeks of this half-term, I would like to start by thanking you for your continued support as we work together to support the development of all members of our community. It is an amazing honour to see such a calm, purposeful and business-like atmosphere around the school on a day to day basis.

Since students started back with us on 2nd November, we have continued to follow the advice and guidance that is given to us by the government and also to ensure that our community is as safe as possible and that all risks are minimised. I am writing to share with you some further updates to how we will operate over the coming weeks, so that we can hopefully minimise risks to all members of the school community.

1. **From Monday 15th November, we will be continuing with the wearing of face coverings (unless exempt) in all corridors and all inside communal areas.**

At this stage, we will not be re-introducing face coverings in classrooms; but if any student wishes to wear a face covering in class, they may do so, so long as it does cover both the mouth and nose.

Please may we politely ask that all students arrive at school with an appropriate face covering as from Monday 15th November. Whilst we will always supply students with a face covering, we would like all students to take personal responsibility for this as from Monday.

2. **We will continue to ensure that all members of the school community follow the 'hands, face, space and fresh air' message of the government.**

This means that:

- a. Students will be expected to sanitise their hands during line up at the start of the school day.
 - b. Students will be expected to sanitise their hands when entering and leaving classrooms, as we have hand sanitiser stations on the walls by classroom doors.
 - c. We will ensure that classroom doors are wedged open and that there is a constant supply of fresh air flowing through classrooms and the building.
 - d. We will continue to sanitise touch points (door handles / frequently touched surfaces etc) at designated times through the school day.
3. **We have installed the carbon dioxide (CO₂) monitors that we have been given by the Department for Education.** These allow teachers and site staff to monitor the air quality of teaching rooms and then adjust the ventilation as required. Because of this, we will always allow students to wear a school jumper (plain V-

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necked grey jumper with no visible logos). This has always been written into the school uniform policy and I would like to draw your attention to this aspect as the weather gets colder.

4. **Unless students are told otherwise, we expect all students to be outside at break and lunchtime.** Because of this, we strongly advise that all students have a suitable (warm) waterproof outdoor coat, preferably with a hood. This is to enable students to get cool, fresh air and also gives them the opportunity to socialise with their friends. We fully recognise that it will get cooler as the autumn turns to winter, but we need to ensure that students are outside at times throughout the day. As we have mentioned before, please may I share again that any hoodie or zipped hoodie is not classed as appropriate for school and will be confiscated on sight. May I thank you in advance for your support in this matter.
5. **Since September, the responsibility for test and trace has reverted back to the NHS test and trace service.** As a school, we recognise that this has not always worked as well as it could do. Therefore, if a student does test positive for COVID-19, we will automatically send out a letter to all the parents in that student's Fidei group alerting you to this issue and offering advice and guidance about what you could choose to do.
6. As I am sure you are aware, we have continued to allow students to attend school in their PE kit when they have their core PE lessons. We will be continuing to do this over the next few weeks and will be reviewing this in December.

We are continuing with the one important change here to support all students and families as the weather turns colder. From 2nd November, and until further notice, students may continue to wear one of the following options:

EITHER

- a. **Their branded school PE uniform jogging bottoms over their PE kit on those days.**

OR

- b. **We will allow all students to wear a pair of unbranded black jogging bottoms over their shorts or leggings.**

These can be quickly removed for PE lessons and then can be put back on at the end of the lesson. It is important to share with you that these must be unbranded, with no logos on at all. These can be bought in shops such as ASDA George, Primark, Matalan fairly cheaply – for around £6.00. We recognise that for many children they may feel cold, especially in the early mornings and darker evenings. This is not a change to the uniform policy, but a way of helping everyone in the current climate and situation that we are all in.

By taking the actions that I have listed above, it is hoped that we can continue to keep the numbers of positive COVID cases as low as possible and where there is a case, then we can inform you as quickly and effectively as possible

May I thank you for your continued support and please stay as safe as possible. Please continue to keep us informed of any positive cases by using the following specific email address: c19@smwca.org.uk.

Yours faithfully



Mr P Johnson
Vice Principal

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