



## **E-Briefing for Parents and Carers**

### **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July**

Dear Parents and Carers

In my letter to you last week, I outlined our curriculum planning for September which will see the introduction of Bridging Units for all students as they begin the 2020-21 academic year together.

Today I am looking to provide you with initial 'headline' information outlining operational and logistical matters in response to the Government guidance issued last week. Full details will be given at a later date in our full Re-opening Plan, but I hope that the information shared today demonstrates that we are taking all required and necessary measures to ensure students and staff are as safe as possible when we return in September.

The partnership between home and school remains at the heart of St Nicholas' mission and success, and the current Government guidance outlines measures that we should *all* take - staff, students, parents and carers, to ensure that everyone in school and at home remains safe and well. There are certain prevention controls that schools and home are strongly encouraged to follow. Together we must:

- Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school
- Clean our hands thoroughly and more often than usual
- Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- Introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach
- Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible

The guidance also states very clearly that we must respond to any infection by:

- Engaging with the NHS Test and Trace process
- Managing confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community
- Containing any outbreak by following local health protection team advice



To ensure the safety of everyone in our community and in response to the issued guidance, the following control systems and protective measures will be in place when students return to St Nicholas in September:

- Students will be in whole year group 'bubbles' and remain distanced from other year group bubbles throughout the school day
- Social times at breaks and lunch will see the school site 'zoned' into different areas for different year group bubbles to enjoy their time together
- On arrival to school, students will be allocated to year group bubble specific areas of school site
- All students will sanitise their hands on arrival to school site. Those students who are unable to use hand sanitiser will have access to alternative products to support hand sanitation requirements
- Sanitiser kits will be available in every classroom containing hand sanitiser, anti-bacterial wipes and tissues. Students will be required to sanitise their hands on entry and exit to each classroom
- Students will only be able to use their own stationery equipment – they will not be able to share items with any other student. The school will provide essential stationery items to all students free of charge at the start of term and a full stationery list for you to purchase will be made available before the start of term
- There will be minimal sharing of class resources (textbooks and other equipment) with cleaning detail implemented as outlined in the guidance
- There will be a 'split lunch' system in place with identified year group bubbles in lessons and the other bubbles enjoying lunch at any one time. This will facilitate the smooth purchase of items and ensure bubble separation is maintained. This will also apply at morning break.

In addition to the measures outlined above, we thought it would be helpful to share the answers to some of the questions that you have asked over the last week.

### **Will the school day remain the same?**

Yes - there will be no changes to the timings of the school day. The school day will begin at 8.45am and formally end at 3.15pm. Internally however, we have realigned some timings to facilitate a staggered departure at the end of the day for each year group bubble. This will see certain year groups leaving slightly earlier than others which will allow for an orderly and socially distanced exit from school site and ensure that students catching a school bus are able to sanitise and board buses promptly. Final details will be provided before September.



### **Are there going to be any changes to school uniform?**

No - There will be no changes to school uniform. We expect all students to attend in full school uniform on arrival to school in September. The government anticipates all schools to resume the new academic year with usual uniform policies in place. They have also stated that *“uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned using methods which are different from normal.”* Your child’s year leader will provide further details soon and should you need to purchase new items of uniform over the summer you can a remind yourself of our required uniform regulations here:

<https://st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk/uniform/>

### **What is going to happen with school buses?**

St Nicholas school bus routes will continue as usual. Bus companies will ensure that vehicles are thoroughly cleaned as per the Government guidance, and students will sanitise their hands on entry and exit. Year groups will ‘fill up’ buses in the same year group bubble order each day. We will expect every student travelling on a St Nicholas Bus Service to wear a face covering. There will be designated face covering disposal zones as students exit buses with WHO guidance on face covering removals implemented. Further details will be provided before September.

### **What is being done about congestion on the trains?**

The school has already contacted the Community Safety Manager at Northern Railways and enquired as to how the company intends to ensure students are protected and kept safe in September. We have asked them to confirm that additional carriage provision will be provided for peak school services, and have asked them to provide a copy of their social distance planning and risk assessments so that we can share these with parents and carers. We will update you with all information as it is received.

Most importantly, we are delighted that all students will be joining us again in September and we very much look forward to the start of the academic year as our community will be together once again!



# ST NICHOLAS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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Thank you for your continued patience as we look to ensure that all elements of the Government guidance are carefully considered and responded to appropriately. Given the complexity of the plans that require finalising, I am not expecting to be in a position to provide our full Re-opening Plan by the end of term next week. I will look to share with you full, detailed and transparent documentation and risk assessment information before we return in September. It is anticipated that this final information, along with audio visual presentations for students and their families, will be made available w/c 24<sup>th</sup> August following the approval of the Governing Board.

I will provide a final update in my end of term letter next week, and if in the interim there are any further questions you wish to ask, then please email me directly at [head@st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:head@st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk).

Thank you as always, for the support you offer to the St Nicholas community.

Yours sincerely

**Richard Woods**  
Headteacher

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