



24<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Following an Extraordinary meeting of the Governing Board of St Nicholas Catholic High School today, Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August, the decision was made to implement a full re-opening of our school for the Autumn Advent Term. In reaching their decision, the Governors scrutinised extensive documentation which included the following:

- St Nicholas' updated Covid-19 Risk Assessment\*
- St Nicholas' Full School Reopening Plan\*
- Guidance for full opening of schools [Gov.co.uk, 7.8.20]
- Covid 19: implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings [Gov.co.uk, 1.6.20]

\*These documents are available on our school website

We are very much looking forward to welcoming students back to St Nicholas next week and as outlined in my letter to you on 16<sup>th</sup> July the new term will begin for different year groups on the following days:

- Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 08.45 School opens to Yr 7 and 12 students only
- Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 08.45 School opens to *all* students

Details of staggered departure times for all year groups can be found in the attached guidance documentation.

Thank you for the many positive emails and messages that you chose to share over the holidays and I hope that you managed to enjoy some of the greater freedoms afforded to us this summer. As students return in September, school will certainly feel somewhat different from when they left in March. All decisions regarding our provision have been and will continue to be made with the best interests of everyone in mind and based on the best and most up to date information we have. The current Government guidance has meant that a number of new processes and systems have had to be introduced to mitigate risk and support the safety of every member of the St Nicholas community. Full details are attached to this letter and everything will be explained to students when they arrive into school next week. We have also produced a number of Powerpoint presentations to support this information.



Should Government guidance be updated over the coming weeks, we will review our approach, implement changes where necessary and ensure you are kept up to date. Our planned provision could be subject to change, including the need to close the site, and this may be at short notice for reasons such as staff and/or student absence from school, site provision or a change to Government advice. As always, we will aim to give you as much notice as we possibly can about any changes as we are aware of the different situations our families are working under at this time.

We know that as students return to school next week, they will do so with a full spectrum of emotions - they will each bring with them their individual journeys through 'lockdown' with its many highs and lows. It has been said that although we are all in the same storm, we have all been in very different boats. Through our morning Form Time schedule and our Sacred Space activities, we will ensure that reorientation back into school remains an absolute priority, with additional support for individual students signposted at every opportunity from our pastoral team, Learning Mentors and Mairie as our Chaplain.

As I have stated previously, when your child returns to school, they themselves could be carrying the Covid-19 virus, as could any student or adult that they meet. All of the revised procedures and risk assessments have been put in place to reduce the risk of transmission of Covid-19 between members of our community. Everyone has an active part to play in our school reopening plan through maintaining social distancing across the school, washing and sanitising their hands regularly, and following the guidance attached to this letter – it is advice for everyone to follow. I would ask that you adhere to the following instruction from the Government:

**Your child must not attend school if:**

1. **They themselves** are displaying any of the Covid-19 symptoms:
  - **a high temperature** – this means they feel hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure their temperature)
  - **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if they usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
  - **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

**They should stay at home for 10 days.**

2. **They themselves have tested positive for Covid-19. They must remain at home for at least 10 days from when the test was taken.** If they develop symptoms during



this isolation period, they must restart their 10-day isolation from the day they first developed symptoms.

- 3. They live in the same household as someone who is displaying any of the Covid-19 symptoms** outlined in 1 above. They should stay at home for 14 days from the first day symptoms were displayed.
- 4. They live in the same household as someone who has tested positive for Covid-19.** They should stay at home for 14 days from the day the test was taken.

Families should engage with the NHS Test and Trace process so that cases can be identified and action taken - this means if your child develops symptoms, you should arrange for them to [get a test](#) and you should inform school of the results of that test.

Full details from Public Health England can be found here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/906663/20203007 Easy read household isolation v3.1.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/906663/20203007_Easy_read_household_isolation_v3.1.pdf)

Details regarding transport provision have been sent separately to all families who completed our transport survey in the summer term and are available on the school website.

In closing, we look forward to another successful year at St Nicholas Catholic High School and to welcoming your children back to their school community next week.

Yours sincerely

**Richard Woods**  
Headteacher

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