



SAINTS PETER AND PAUL
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

14th July 2021

Dear Parent/carer,

I am sure you agree that this academic year has been extremely challenging, but we are now reaching the end and can hopefully look forward to a new settled academic year from September. Whilst we all wish we did not have to face a once in a century pandemic, it has taught us things about ourselves and helped us to develop new skills and appreciate different aspects of life.

While the last 18 months have been very difficult and frustrating for many reasons, the staff and I have been very grateful for your support and co-operation.

Our students, your children, have been the heroes among the chaos and we are absolutely determined to give them the best experience possible as we start the new academic year. My staff have been working extremely hard over recent weeks to ensure we can do just that, from the off, in September.

In the information below I have outlined the guidance we have received from the Department for Education regarding returning to school in September, as well as several other important updates. As we know from this past year, things can change, so I will write to you towards the end of Summer with final plans and reminders of start dates and times.

We wish you a very restful and enjoyable summer. As always, thank you for your continued support and for being a part of this wonderful community.

Mrs D Scott
Principal

Department for Education plans

Last week we received guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) about the plans for the Autumn term which outlined the following:

- Schools are expected to test students and staff on return to school in September twice on-site 3-5 days apart.
- Staff and students should continue self-testing at home for the rest of September.
- Individuals who test positive for Covid-19 will be expected to self-isolate.
- From 18th August 2021, close contacts who have been fully vaccinated or who are Under 18 **will no longer be asked to self-isolate**, they will be asked to get a PCR test and monitor their health.
- Face coverings will no longer be advised in communal areas or in classrooms.
- 'Bubbles' i.e., keeping children in consistent groups will no longer be recommended.
- Schools are no longer expected to undertake track and trace.
- School trips and visits can return.

While these measures are welcomed and will prove for a less disruptive education for our students, the guidance also points out that schools should be prepared to step measures up in response to local issues. Moreover, we are yet to understand how some of this guidance will work in practice.

We have been working on our operational plans for September and I am confident that the way in which we have organised the school gives us the flexibility to increase measures as needed without disrupting our students' education. Below I have outlined some of the arrangements to give you an idea of how we will be operating:

- Students will be moving around the school more next year; we will have a new one-way system in place.
- There will be more flexibility in groupings for Key Stage 3 students – these have been quite fixed to keep them in smaller bubbles within the Year Group bubble.
- Students will have access to all their specialised classrooms for Science, Drama, Art, Music, Dance, PE, DT and ICT.
- Each year group will continue to have separate break and lunchtime spaces (this was featured as a positive by the majority of students on our last student survey).

As you are aware, we finish for summer on **Friday 16th July at 12pm**. The mid-morning break will continue as normal. **School lunch will not be served**. A breakfast / brunch will be provided to all those entitled to Free School Meals during the morning break.

Staff Leavers

At the end of term, we say thank you and farewell to colleagues who have taken the decision to retire after a long and dedicated service to the community of Saints Peter and Paul Catholic High School. Mr Boulton, Mrs Cleary, Mr Fazakerley, Mrs Fazakerley and Mr Corbett are retiring having served almost 150 years between them! Mrs Bedwell, Mr Jordan, and Mrs Ferris are also retiring, and Miss Cushnahan is heading back over the water to Northern Ireland. May I take this opportunity to thank them for their contributions over the years, they will be missed by all.

Staffing updates

Please see below the key staff for each year group and for the specialist roles that students and parents

	Progress Leader	Year Mentor	Senior Leadership team link
Year 7	Mr Sharp	Mrs Aspey	Mrs Robertson
Year 8	Mr Gough	Mr Shaw	Mrs Woan
Year 9	Mr Hall	Mrs Downey	Mrs Varqulis
Year 10	Mr Burke	Mrs Clare	Mrs Verdin
Year 11	Miss Reynolds	Mr Johnston	Miss McComas

	Specialist roles
AAVP Inclusion and SENCO	Mrs Downing
Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	Mrs Forber
Deputy DSL	Mrs Nightingale
Deputy DSL	Mr Forber
Safeguarding officer	Mrs Scott
Safeguarding officer	Mrs Cunningham
Safeguarding officer	Mrs Woan

Wellbeing during the holidays

We are mindful that the pandemic and various measures have had an impact on many families and young people. May I take this opportunity to signpost the wellbeing tab on our website in case you need help and support during the break. This page lays out contact numbers and websites to access help and support, some of which many families have found useful over the past year.

<https://www.saintspeterandpaul.halton.sch.uk/wellbeing/>

Re-Opening in September

Following the news that schools are expected to test all staff and students twice on return, we will again need a staggered start to help us manage this huge logistical challenge as our testing staff are also our teachers. We will test the staff on Thursday 2nd September and start to test and return students on Friday 3rd September. We expect students to be in school for 8.35am to line up on their playgrounds to enter the building to start registration at 8.50am.

	Testing date	Full Return date	Morning lining up points
Year 7	Friday 3 rd September 8.35am	Friday 3 rd September 8.35am	Sports hall playground
Year 8	Tuesday 7 th September 8.35– 11.00am	Wednesday 8 th September 8.35am	Top playground
Year 9	Monday 6 th September 8.35 – 11.00am	Tuesday 7 th September 8.35am	Top playground
Year 10	Tuesday 7 th September 1.15-3.00pm	Wednesday 8 th September 8.35am	Bottom playground
Year 11	Friday 3 rd September 10.00 – 12.00pm	Monday 6 th September 8.35am	Middle playground

As you know, we have high standards and expectations of all students, and I would like to take this opportunity to ask for your cooperation in ensuring that all students return to school with the correct uniform and equipment.

To help parents when purchasing uniform and accessories we have provided more information on our website, including some images of acceptable and unacceptable shoes and bags to avoid parents purchasing items that fall outside of our uniform expectations
https://www.saintspeterandpaul.halton.sch.uk/school_information/uniform/