



# St. Joseph's RC High School

## Ysgol Uwchradd Gatholig Joseff Sant

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**Headteacher/Pennaeth:** Mrs J Jarrett BA(Hons) M.A NPQH

5 March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

### Re: Phased return to school

Further to my letter on 3rd March, I would like to confirm our plans for welcoming students back to school.

- **Years 10, 11, 12 and 13** will resume full time onsite teaching from Monday 15th March. Period 1 Monday 15th March will be an extended form period. Students will follow their normal timetable for the rest of their time in school.
- **Year 12 and Year 13** collaboration lessons will commence Period 3 Monday 15th March.
- **Year 7** will attend school on **Friday 19th March and Monday 22nd March** to check-in with a focus on wellbeing support and preparation for a full time return to their onsite learning after Easter. Period 1 Friday 19th March will be an extended form period. Students will follow their normal timetable for the rest of their time in school.
- **Year 8** will attend school on **Tuesday 23rd March and Wednesday 24th March** to check-in with a focus on wellbeing support and preparation for a full time return to their onsite learning after Easter. Period 1 Tuesday 23rd March will be an extended form period. Students will follow their normal timetable for the rest of their time in school.
- **Year 9** will attend school on **Thursday 25th March and Friday 26th March** to check-in with a focus on wellbeing support and preparation for a full time return to their onsite learning after Easter. Period 1 Thursday 25th March will be an extended form period. Students will follow their normal timetable for the rest of their time in school.

### Student wellbeing

I appreciate that for most, a return to routine, normality, and the opportunity to have more social interactions will be sufficient, in time, to overcome the challenges of the last year. However, we are also sensitive to the fact that it will be a real adjustment for some students coming back from another prolonged period away from school routines. We will be working particularly hard to ensure all those who are struggling get the support they need to move forward. If you would like advice on how to support your child with the transition back into the classroom we have provided the following information [link](#).

On the day your child returns to school, the day will start with an extended form tutor time which will run until Period 2. This will enable us to focus on resetting our highest expectations for students regarding COVID health and safety measures, well-being, expectations, and routines. We will recap on daily arrangements and give students ample time to share their worries or concerns.

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## Updated Welsh Government operational guidance

With regard to the latest Welsh Government operational guidance and infection control, we will essentially be adopting the same robust processes we had in place before Christmas. Please click [here](#) for the operational guidance. In line with this guidance, the only significant changes we have made to our risk assessment are:

1. **Wearing of face coverings. All students will be expected to wear a face-covering at all times when they are indoors.** This will include all communal areas such as corridors and **in classrooms during lessons**. The only exception is at mealtimes and when your child is in their designated outside area. Face coverings should still be worn by all students travelling on dedicated school transport.
2. **Routine testing for staff and students in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13.** Welsh Government has made available, to all consenting staff, twice weekly rapid-result coronavirus tests (Lateral Flow Tests). The Minister for Education and the Minister for Health and Social Services also announced on 22nd February that the offer of regular, twice weekly, Lateral Flow Tests will be extended to all consenting students in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13. These tests will be for use at home. As yet, I have not received any further information on the distribution of the tests. Once I do, I will let you know.

## Uniform

All students who attend school, from 15th March, will be expected to wear full uniform. Given that we have around half of the academic year remaining, we believe it would not be appropriate to relax or remove uniform at this time. School uniform helps play a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of the school and sets the appropriate tone. Moreover, many students and families may find the removal of uniform for such an extended period a challenge. At the same time, we recognise that a few children may have grown significantly during the past few weeks. Therefore, to support these students and families, the school will further invest in uniform supplies eg. blazers; trousers; shirts and shoes. These will be available to support those families who may require the assistance. Please contact your child's Head of Year if you would like to discuss this offer.

## PE and Games Kit

On the days students are timetabled to have PE or Games, they will continue to wear their PE kit to school. Please encourage your child to check their timetable carefully to ensure they are arriving at school wearing the correct uniform. Again, support is available to families whose children may have grown significantly during the past few weeks.

## Catering/Free school meals

The school canteen will be open at breaktime and lunchtime from Monday 15th March. If you are in receipt of free school meals, the school meal voucher scheme will be in place until the end of term, and therefore your child will be required to bring a packed lunch to school with them.

## Transport

Home to school transport will be fully operational.

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### **Distance learning timetable**

Please find, at the end of this letter, the distance learning timetable for your child for next week, Monday 8th March to Friday 12th March.

For students in **Years 10, 11, 12 and 13**, this will be the last distance learning timetable as they will be attending face to face lessons in school for the final two weeks of term.

For students in **Years 7, 8 and Year 9**, next Friday, you will receive their distance learning timetable for the week 15th to 19th March. During the final week of term, there will be no live lessons as children will be attending face to face lessons for part of that week. While there will be work available on Google Classroom, you may find it more beneficial for your child to use this week as an opportunity to “catch their breath” and organise notes in preparation for their full time return after Easter.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our St Joseph’s RC High School community. We are all hopeful that, as we move into the Summer term, we will begin to get back to some sort of normality.

Do take care, stay safe and have a lovely weekend.

**Yours sincerely**

**Mrs Jarrett**

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