

06-10-2020



ST HILDA'S
CE HIGH SCHOOL

Dear parent and carer

OUR OCTOBER UPDATE

I realise that we are communicating a lot with you at the minute, but I wanted to send you a round-up of what has happened over the past month and what is coming up over the coming weeks. Our life outside school has changed with the new measures, but in school we are continuing as we did from September 2nd.

WISDOM
HOPE
COMMUNITY
DIGNITY
EQUALITY

Covid-19 Update

We currently have a total of 10 students who have tested positive; 6 in Year 13, 3 in Year 11 and 1 in Year 10. All of them seem to be community transmission.

Year 11 were asked to self-isolate and smaller groups of Years 10 and 13.

We have a number of students and staff who are self-isolating, but not at the request of school.

During the school day please use attendance@st-hildas.co.uk to report any student who is self-isolating and/or has had a positive test result.

Out of school hours please email covid@st-hildas.co.uk to let us know students who need to self-isolate due to Covid-19 symptoms, a positive test or close/direct contact with someone who has tested positive.

Our process for dealing with positive cases

There have been a few questions about how we decide who had to self-isolate. There is a process we have to follow and we work alongside Liverpool City Council and Public Health England. Please be aware that some of the actions happen at the same time.

1. Receive notification of positive test
2. Contact Liverpool City Council Single Point of Contact
3. Contact DfE COVID Helpline
4. Identify close contacts:
 - a. Friendship groups
 - b. Class based seating plans
 - c. Other activities and risk of contact
5. Arrange for close contacts to be informed and sent home
6. Inform staff, parents and Chair of Governors

Headteacher
Mrs J Code
BA (Hons), NPQH, FCCT

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Period of self-isolation

Self-isolation for close or direct contacts is 14 days. This period of 14 days starts from the last time the student/s came into contact with the person who has tested positive. If in any doubt, please ask.

Students in isolation - school work

A reminder that all students who are self-isolating, should be able to access their work through Microsoft TEAMS, this will also inform them of any live or recorded sessions they can attend.

There is a tab on our website where you can find the 'how to' guides and our IT policy changes

<http://www.st-hildas.co.uk/home-learning/> Not all lessons will be live, some will be pre-recorded, some will be practising things from earlier lessons. Please read and sign the ICT Acceptable Use Policy I have sent to you today. The link is below. This has been changed to take into account the remote teaching of our students. Please click on the link, speak to your son or daughter about it and then agree to the changes.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=gslUYD0XnE2CnSSqmUfkEGxhgngxVTRVNiGyHjnw7TWxUQkKTVhHUVNaQ01GQUNHUDNBSIFFUzdMVi4u>

Face Masks

THANK YOU! The response to the changes in our rules has been magnificent. We have issued exempt cards to those students who do not need to wear a mask. I think we are getting used to seeing each other with masks in our communal areas. Your support has been very much appreciated. If I, by mistake, leave my office without mine, it is like I have gone out without my shoes on. They quickly become part of what we do to protect each other.

Lunches and bagels

You will know from my first plans that we always intended to review the situation with lunches. We are planning to re-introduce a limited menu of hot food for students from Monday 12th October. We began our breakfast initiative on Monday with free bagels for all year groups. These are freshly toasted and buttered bagels either from 8 am or at break time. We are really happy to be able to offer this and they certainly went down well today! We have bagels to suit most dietary requirements. They smelled lovely today!!

Library

We are moving the Library from its current place to the atrium. Mrs Hale will still be in charge and the book drops she currently offers will remain. We have been unable to use the space other than at lunch and after school due to the mixing of bubbles. This service will continue and students will be able to have that quiet place to read and relax. Homework club remains unaffected by this change too.

Staffing

I wanted to thank all of our staff, teaching and support for their hard work over the past month and beyond. All of our jobs, be them in education or in your areas of work, are harder due to the pandemic, so I wanted to send a special public thanks to our staff here. Every single member of staff in the school now does a duty to allow us to zone and bubble. They have adapted to the new rules and regulations very well. Teachers are rushing from classroom to classroom, set work for those absent or invite them into their lesson from home. We know it is not perfect yet, but we are working very hard to get there and ask for patience and understanding. We have greater staff absence due to self-isolation, and I am really grateful for the staff in school who support us by stepping in when

needed to cover lessons. Thank you to all of you for your lovely emails too. I do share them with staff and they make a real difference.

Open Evening

We are unable to invite prospective parents/carers and their children in to the school to experience one of our wonderful open evenings. Instead we will be sharing a video which gives an insight into the school, how we work and who we are. I will also do the presentation I would usually do in our Assembly Hall and there will be an opportunity for questions and answers. The date for the evening will be **Wednesday 21st October** and you will need to sign up to let us know you would like the link to this event. The prospectus will also be available electronically on this date.

Standards

Excellent standards of behaviour, attendance/punctuality and uniform are always important. We have been very impressed with our students on our recent checks on all of the above. Thank you for your support with this. We really appreciate it.

Assessments

We are starting to do some classroom base assessments with our students. The purpose of these is to inform our teaching from October onwards. Our students should try their best and do their revision for the tests. Some students in Years 11 and 13 have been worried that these assessments will be used if we don't have exams in summer. We do not have any information about summer exams at the minute and all assessments should be seen as an opportunity to show what you know and what you need support with. Please reinforce this message if your son or daughter becomes anxious about the assessments.

Changes to the end of the school

After over a month of our new arrangements, I am making a change to the Year 7 end of day time. From Monday 12th October Year 7 will end their school day at 2.45 p.m.

YEAR GROUP	TIME
YEAR 7	2.45
YEAR 8	2.40
YEAR 9	2.45
YEAR 10	2.50
YEAR 11	3.50

Finally

As parents and carers you have played such an important role in allowing us to open to all students, supporting our decisions and raising really good points. I would like to thank you for that. None of us has lived in a pandemic before and we are certainly stronger together as the St Hilda's Family than alone. We remain here for you when you have questions about your son or daughter.

As always, we remember you in our prayers and pray that you stay safe,

Headteacher
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Mrs J Code Headteacher



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Silver Award
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A school
committed to
excellence in
PSHE education

