

7th January 2021



ST HILDA'S
CE HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear parent/carer

LOCKDOWN UPDATE JANUARY 2021

Happy New Year – it has been a bumpy start so far with staggered returns to school and then no return to school, so thank you for all of your support! I wanted to give you an overview of things you need to know and may be of use in this update, and I have done this for each year group, so it hopefully cuts down the amount of pages you have to read! I know that I feel bombarded by information at the minute.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Moving from a staggered start to a lockdown has meant some changes to T&L for some of our students. We have done a considerable amount of work on Microsoft Teams in order to make home learning better. We are moving towards increased number of live lessons. Live lessons are lessons where the teacher is present and students are registered by the teacher. It doesn't mean that the teacher will deliver a full lesson just talking. It means that they are with the students in the virtual classroom supporting them, teaching, setting tasks, questioning students, responding to their questions and helping them to progress. The table below shows the overview from Monday 11th January for the next 2 weeks. Full attendance and punctuality remain as important as ever. Please encourage this and support us.

Week Commencing	Years 7 to 9	Years 10-13
11/1/21	Live lessons and remote learning	Live lessons
	Key worker/Vulnerable students in school	
18/1/21	Live Lessons and remote learning	Live lessons
	Key worker/Vulnerable students in school	

Please note that we have also standardised the school day. This means that all lessons happen at these times. Students should be in the lobby of their lesson 5 minutes before these times.

P1 – 8:45am
P2 – 9:45am
P3 – 11:05am
P4 – 1:15pm
P5 – 2:10pm

Please note that the school office will be open between 8.00 am and 1 pm Monday to Friday.

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

Croxteth Drive, Sefton Park, Liverpool L17 3AL - 0151 733 2709 - info@st-hildas.co.uk - www.st-hildas.co.uk



IT and DATA

Thank you to parents and carers who have contacted us regarding laptops etc for students to be able to do their work on. We have supplied a number of laptops which far exceeds the small amount we were sent by the Government. Please note that a move to live lessons does mean that every student would need their own laptop/device to work on. Please contact us urgently if this is not the case for your son or daughter. I am led to believe that lessons can also be accessed using an Xbox or PlayStation, if you have one of these at home.

Please also note that the Government is supporting those in receipt on Pupil Premium by working with mobile networks for home learning. The following networks have signed up and you can get more information by contacting Mrs McGuiness mcguiness@st-hildas.co.uk
EE/Three/Sky Mobile/SMARTY/ Tesco Mobile/Virgin Mobile

PASTORAL SUPPORT

Every student has been assigned someone to support them pastorally. Form tutors obviously play a big role in this support, but other members of staff such as the House Officers, Mrs Goodrum (mental wellbeing lead), Heads of House etc will be making regular calls to you and your son or daughter. Please note that the number of the school will not appear. It will say No Caller ID. It is vital that your sons and daughters still feel well cared for and supported even though we are not together at the minute. Our website has lots of important information regarding many outside agencies too that may be of use. <http://www.st-hildas.co.uk/mental-health-support/> If your son or daughter is ill and cannot access their work, please email attendance@st-hildas.co.uk to let us know. We can then let teachers know that they are not well and will not be completing work.

SEND SUPPORT

If a young person holds an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP), they have been invited to take up a school place. All students will access lessons through Microsoft Teams delivered by their individual teachers. Where the subject is set by ability, work will be set at the right level for the student to be able to complete it as well as be stretched to support progression learning. Where mixed ability classes are taking place, additional adults (Teaching Assistants) will be accessing some of these lessons as part of the Microsoft Team. Teachers will direct the TA and there is the opportunity to access 'Break Out' rooms as part of the lesson in order to discuss in a smaller group and receive directed support from the TA. If a student is attending school, there are additional staff within the classrooms to offer further face to face support.

Where you wish to contact school regarding your child in relation to special educational needs, please do so through the correct email address: sendfamilies@st-hildas.co.uk

A full version of this report is available on our school website.

INFORMATION FOR YEAR 13

We are now slightly more informed regarding what will happen now A Levels have been cancelled. There will be some form of Teacher Assessed Grade, but the details of how we will award these is still not available. People often worry that we will just use mock grades or one piece of data to award these, but it is a very long process that is quality assured by me and Governors. Our students must continue to attend our lessons, do the work to the best of their ability and ask questions. Please support us with this.

Year 13 were due to have mock exams shortly. We have decided to postpone them and do a shorter piece of assessment in each subject in their place. This makes more sense. Year 13 Parents' Evening is Thursday 11th February. It will be done virtually and we will send you a link closer to the time. Please try to attend. We will have more information by then too which we can share with you.

Please let us know if you need anything. We are here to support you. Please look after yourselves and we are praying for better times,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Jo Code". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jo Code
Headteacher