



ST HILDA'S
CE HIGH SCHOOL

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EQUALITY

12 May 2021

MAY UPDATE

Dear parent/carer

As the Government is changing some of its guidance from Monday 17th May, I thought it would be useful for me to send you an update about how the school will implement any changes and any implications there are for you and your family as our restrictions begin to ease a little.

From Monday 17th May we will not require students to wear their face masks in lessons. We are happy for any student to continue to do this, but we will not enforce it. Currently the vast majority of our students wear masks in lessons and this is very much appreciated. We will, however, still insist on the wearing of mask in communal areas and stairwells where we cannot socially distance. Those who are currently exempt and have the card and the purple lapel badge will continue to be exempt. Whilst I share the optimism of the Government and the statistics, I also want to protect our staff and students as much as possible. Our enhanced cleaning will still take place. We will still have forward-facing chairs and tables and students will still be encouraged to hand wash or sanitise as often as possible. We will socially distance wherever possible.

Regarding any changes which may affect you and your family, the wearing of masks on public transport is still compulsory, unless exempt. We will also be wearing masks in our school minibus and on any further trips we go on. School trips, including residential trips, can go ahead from Monday onwards, but the school's risk assessment will also reflect the measures needed in a pandemic to be Covid-safe.

The advice regarding anyone in your household with symptoms remains the same.

Students, staff and other adults must not come into the school if:

they have one or more COVID-19 symptoms

a member of their household (including someone in their support

bubble or childcare bubble if they have one) has COVID-19 symptoms

they are legally required to quarantine, having recently visited countries outside the Common Travel Area

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they have had a positive test
have been in close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19

They must immediately cease to attend and not attend for at least 10 days from the day after:

the start of their symptoms

the test date if they did not have any symptoms but have had a positive LFD or PCR test (if an LFD test is taken first, and a PCR test is then taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the LFD test and the student can return to school).

If you have a positive test from a home testing kit, please make sure that you get a PCR test. These are the ones that are sent away. If this comes back as negative, you may return to work or school. More details can be found by clicking [here](#). Please note that there is a Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme for anyone who needs to self-isolate and cannot work. Details can be found [here](#).

I know that some of you will be looking at possible foreign travel at half-term. If you do, please follow the rules for the particular country you are visiting.

After our half-term break, with Years 11 and 13 not being in the school all of the time, we have more space and so will be reconfiguring our bubbles to allow more students to use our specialist rooms, such as science labs. We will send you further details shortly.

For our families that are celebrating Eid al Fitr tomorrow, Thursday 13th May, we wish you a blessed and safe celebration. We will celebrate this as a school on Monday. A special thanks to Miss Rahman who has organised a meal for us to share in school on Monday.

A final reminder that we close at midday tomorrow, Thursday 13th May, so that we can moderate the assessments we are doing to allow us to award Teacher Assessed Grades for years 11, 12 and 13. Thank you for your support. This is an enormous task for staff, on top of their usual roles.

Please look after yourselves and let us know if we can help in anyway. Your support during this pandemic has been wonderful and I am very grateful for it. We are praying for our St Hilda's family and an end



Jo Code
Headteacher