

13 September 2021



ST HILDA'S
CE HIGH SCHOOL

WISDOM

HOPE

COMMUNITY

DIGNITY

EQUALITY

UPDATE YEAR 8

Dear parent/carer

It has been a really good start back to the new term and it is lovely to see our students back in our building. The school now has the largest number of students in its entire history! I wanted to update you about a few things at the start of the term.

Uniform

The uniform is looking great! Thank you for your support. For the very small minority of students who are not following our uniform code, we will be sending individual letters to you regarding this. Before the summer we sent several reminders regarding uniform and our rules so that you did not buy unsuitable items. We do have high standards and I would hope that is one of the reasons you chose St Hilda's for your child. Please work with us to ensure that all students have the correct uniform. As always, there is financial support for those in receipt of free-school meals. However, given the past year, please let us know if your situation has changed and you need our support too with uniform, which includes PE kit. As we do have increased ventilation in our rooms as per our risk assessment, students are welcome to wear an extra layer under their uniform if they feel the cold. Ours is a warm building, especially the upper floors!

INSET date confirmed

We have scheduled one of our INSET days in for Thursday 23rd September. The calendar has been amended to show this. This means that students will not be in school on this date for in-service training to take place.

Steps to Success Evenings

We are looking forward to welcoming parents and carers of students in Years 10 and 12 into school this Thursday, 16th September. This is a really important chance to understand more about the demands of Years 10 and 12. We would ask that you wear a mask, unless exempt, when in our building and make use of the hand sanitiser etc. We will keep a record of who is attending.

Open Evening for students in Years 5 and 6

I have taken the decision to do our Open Evening as a virtual one. We normally welcome over 1000 visitors at the Open Evening and, given the number of Covid infections in the Liverpool region, I think this is a safer option for your child/ren and our staff. I realise that people will be disappointed, but we are adding to the information videos we already have. I hope that later in the year I can offer tours during a normal school day for those who want to.

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

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Extra-curricular opportunities

Please note that we have started our extra-curricular activities and clubs. These will be updated on our website shortly.

Covid update – SPECIFICALLY FOR YEAR 8

Over recent days we have been made aware of several children in our school who have tested positive for Covid in **Year 8**. Thank you to those parents and carers who informed us really quickly. I would like to take time to reassure you that we have taken all necessary actions since hearing this information to keep all children at our school as safe as possible. The school have consulted with the local authority and we are introducing some additional controls within certain parts of the school to reduce the chances of further spread of the virus. We already have several measures in place, such as increased ventilation of rooms, enhanced cleaning, use of hand sanitiser and hand washing. Our school risk assessment will be updated to reflect the changes in practice. For the next 2 weeks, we will introduce the following controls:

- ✓ There will be a separate break and lunch area for Year 8.
- ✓ **Year 8 should bring a snack for break until further notice.**
- ✓ Assembly for Year 8 will be done virtually.
- ✓ We will be limiting visitors to the school.

Following this period of time, we will review these additional measures. I want to reassure you that Year 8 remain very much a part of our school. We are taking some small measures to stop any further spread of the virus.

I know that as a parent or carer this can be a worrying time for you. We still strongly recommend the use of a face mask in our communal areas and on public transport. Being vigilant for any signs of illness and doing a home Covid test is really important. Any positive home test should be confirmed by a PCR test. As always, any advice you need, please contact our Covid inbox and we will respond asap covid@st-hildas.co.uk

Covid update from Liverpool City Council and Public Health North-west

Currently, the most common strain of virus in the UK is called the Delta variant and we have seen a steep rise in COVID-19 cases recently. Evidence suggests the Delta variant spreads more easily than previous strains. It is important that we are vigilant and follow public health messages to stop the spread of the virus

In order to keep our school community safe and our children in school there are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19.

All secondary students should have received home test kits from school. Regular asymptomatic testing will help to reduce the chance of the virus spreading. We are taking this opportunity to remind students to do a rapid test twice a week (every 3 to 4 days) to check if they have the virus. If students test positive and self-isolate, it helps stop the virus spreading.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further Information

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Symptoms of COVID 19

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>

I have spoken about my family a lot in my letters to you. As a mum of a son who is secondary-age I share your concerns and worries. However, I also know how much not being in school through lockdowns or periods of self-isolation affected him. My job is to ensure that our school is as safe as we can make it. To do this I need your help by ensuring testing and informing us of any illness. As rules have changed, please let me know through the covid@st-hildas.co.uk inbox if you need any advice. I am more than happy to answer your questions.

Sorry to end on a negative note. The start back has been really wonderful. Our new Year 7s and 12s have settled in really quickly. As we did last year, we will do what we need to do to support and care for our students and you too.



Jo Code
Headteacher