



St Michael's Catholic College

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Principal: Ms Felicity Corcoran

Vice Principal: Ms Charlotte Sayed

Vice Principal: Ms Kathleen Faherty

14th October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Important Update from the Principal

I am pleased to report that students have made a very successful start to the academic year and are coping brilliantly with the organisational changes required to meet Covid-19 health and safety guidelines. Attendance has been very high and we have been able to support the small number of students required to self-isolate to continue with their learning remotely at home. If students are required to self-isolate due to; them or someone in their household testing positive for Covid-19, them/someone in their household displaying Covid-19 symptoms or if they are identified as a direct or proximity contact of a positive case work will be set for them on Google classroom. Unless they are unwell, students will be required to complete all work set fully and checks will be carried out by Leaders of Learning. We recognise that in the current circumstances' parents/carers are understandably more cautious about sending their child into school if they are feeling under the weather and therefore a Covid-19 symptom guidance tool is attached to the end of this letter to support you with your decision making.

All of our plans and risk assessments are subject to regular review due to the ever-changing nature of the pandemic to ensure they are in line with national and local guidance. As a result, we have updated student expectations given the recent increase in the Covid-19 infection rate. These updated expectations have been shared with students in tutor time this week and are attached to this letter. Could you please also go through them with your child and ensure they understand their responsibilities in terms of keeping themselves and others safe and also ensure that they have a clean face covering (plain black, navy, grey or surgical) in their blazer pocket at all times unless they have a medical exemption. 6th form students are required to wear a face covering in all communal areas of the college and in NT classrooms where there are more than 8 students.

At present all students are required to return to the college site on Monday 2nd November 2020 following the half term break and Tuesday 5th January 2021 (Monday 4th January 2021 for Year 11) following the Christmas break. The foreign office continues **to advise against** all but essential international travel, except to countries and territories listed on their exemption list, more details can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus> .

Please be aware that developments in the coronavirus pandemic remain uncertain around the world. No travel is risk-free and foreign office guidance is subject to change at very short notice. Therefore, any student/s travelling overseas or within the UK to areas of high/very high risk need to ensure they arrive back in time so that they are able to return to the college site on the required dates. We will not be authorising any absence for students who go against government advice and travel to countries **not** on the foreign office exemption list over half term or the Christmas holidays which would require them to miss college upon their return, due to having to quarantine. It is also not reasonable to add to staff workload at this difficult time by asking the college to set additional work for students who will be absent because a decision has been taken by their parents/carers to go against government guidance which results in them being required to quarantine in term time.

As you may be aware there is speculation in the media at present about the possibility of a two-week half term 'circuit breaker lockdown' being implemented across the country and about London being subject to tier 2 restrictions. I will continue to monitor the situation carefully and will update parents/carers as soon as I am able to about any requirements that schools will be expected to follow should this take place.



In the meantime, thank you for your support which has helped to ensure the return to college has been so successful. We are very fortunate to have very dedicated senior leaders, teaching, support and premises staff who are ensuring that high standards of education and facilities are maintained for your children in very challenging and ever-changing circumstances.

Yours Sincerely



Ms F. Corcoran
Principal

Student Expectations: Updated 12/10/20

When attending college, students must follow the rules and expectations outlined below. This will help to maintain the health and wellbeing of everyone in our college and wider community.

1. Only attend college if you and all members of your household do not have Covid-19 related symptoms.
2. Wear a mask or face covering if using public transport, unless you are exempt for medical reasons
3. If you are in the 6th form you must wear a face covering in corridors, specified communal areas, study periods and in NT classrooms where there are 8 or more students unless you are exempt for medical reasons.
4. Arrive at college and leave to go home at the designated time. Do not congregate in and around the local area at the end of the day.
5. Use a sanitiser to disinfect hands on entering and leaving college and each classroom within the day. Wash hands with soap regularly during the day.
6. Carry a clean face covering (black, navy, grey or surgical) in your blazer pocket in a clean plastic bag at all times and wear it if directed to by a member of staff, unless you are exempt for medical reasons.
7. Stick to your bubble/designated classrooms/stairs/lunch spaces at all times. When moving around the college, stop and wait if you come across students from another year group until it is safe to continue.
8. Avoid physical contact at all times- **even within your own year group bubble**. No hugs, shaking hands etc. and maintain as much distance from others as possible, **even within your own bubble**.
9. Make sure you keep staff safe, by keeping 2 metres away from them at all times.
10. In the classroom, do not move the table or chairs. Avoid touching displays and other surfaces. Wipe specialist equipment/computers/Chromebooks before and after use.
11. At break and lunchtimes, go to your designated area/classroom and maintain a safe distance from others.
12. When lining up, make sure you do this in alphabetical order as it makes it easier to trace contacts.
13. Do not share belongings (stationery, food etc) with others.
14. Use your designated toilets only. Only enter the toilets if there is a free cubicle.

Covid-19 symptom parental support tool September 2020

If your child is unwell, do they have:

1. A new continuous cough?
2. A fever (high temperature over 38°C)?
3. A complete loss or change of taste or smell?

NO

Does your child have an underlying health condition? For example a serious heart or lung condition eg severe asthma, requiring on going hospital appointments.

NO

YES

YES

Current advice Sept 2020:

- Keep your child off school at home
- Inform your child's school
- Speak to 119 or go to www.gov.uk/coronavirus
- If advised, then arrange a Covid test to be done

Your child and household should self isolate until you have the result of the test.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/what-your-test-result-means/>

Would you have kept your child off school before Covid-19?

YES

Keep your child off school and inform the school

NO

Speak to their specialist team for advice regarding testing or if you are concerned and you have not already seen or spoken to them. Keep them off school whilst you do this.

Children who are otherwise completely well with only:

- Runny nose or sneezing
- Mild Cold symptoms without fever
- Can go to school as normal

You may not be able to tell the difference between Covid-19 and other viral illness

Babies and children can still get illness that can make them unwell very quickly. It's important to get medical help if you need it.

Call 111 if you're worried about a baby or child.

If your child seems very unwell, is getting worse or you think there's something seriously wrong, call 999.

Do not delay getting help if you're worried. Trust your instincts.

A runny or stuffy nose is rarely a symptom of Covid-19 (WHO 2020)

Sneezing is not a symptom of Covid - 19 (WHO 2020)