



St Michael's Catholic College

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www.stmichaelscollege.org.uk

Principal: Ms Felicity Corcoran

Vice Principal: Ms Charlotte Sayed

Vice Principal: Ms Kathleen Faherty

5th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Guidance released for schools during the 2nd national lockdown

Late yesterday afternoon, the Department for Education (DfE) published guidance on what the new national lockdown restrictions mean for schools, colleges and other education settings. As a result of this guidance we have identified a number of actions which will be taken during the lockdown period in addition to our current, rigorous health and safety measures to ensure we meet the updated guidance.

- After school extra-curricular sports, music, DT clubs etc are **not** allowed to take place during the lockdown period.
- Year 11 and 13 students will continue to attend compulsory after school study clubs and Saturday schools as they are part of the college catch up curriculum.
- Targeted students will continue to attend homework club and SEN homework club as they are part of the college catch up curriculum.
- After school and Saturday detentions are still allowed to take place in line with the college behaviour policy.
- Year group assemblies will take place remotely and be watched on the whiteboard in tutor time as per the assembly schedule.
- House competitions will take place remotely using Google classroom
- All staff meetings and briefings will move to virtual meetings.
- All students will continue to be required to wear face coverings in communal areas in the college buildings, unless they have a medical exemption. 6th form students will continue to wear face coverings in NT classrooms where there are 8 or more students in the class.
- We will continue to keep doors open to all classrooms and ensure any windows that open are used to provide extra ventilation. This may mean that classrooms are a little colder than usual, therefore students should wear long sleeved shirts/blouses, cardigans and blazers and girls may prefer to wear tights to ensure they are more comfortable in lessons.
- We will be strictly limiting visitors to the college site and parents will only be allowed onto the college site by prior arrangement or if they have an appointment to attend a reintegration meeting following their child's exclusion. Parents' meetings/evenings will take place remotely.
- We are actively recruiting additional staff to support with management of staff absence related to Covid-19.
- Students will be expected to comply with lockdown procedures and make their way straight to and from the college. It is not acceptable for students to gather in groups before and after school or to use local shops or supermarkets as the small number of shops that are open are only to be used for essential purposes.
- 6th form students will no longer be allowed offsite at lunch times during the lockdown period. as guidance states that only essential shops will be open.

Guidance has also been updated in relation to clinically extremely vulnerable and clinically vulnerable students and staff which is now as follows:



St Michael's Catholic College is registered in England & Wales with Company Number 08160034

Registered Office - Llewellyn Street, Bermondsey, London SE16 4UN

Clinically extremely vulnerable staff and pupils

- Both staff and students who have been identified by their doctor as still considered clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV), will be advised not to come into college. The government guidance on shielding and CEV people has been updated to reflect this position. We are currently in the process of contacting the parents of all students who have previously been identified as CEV to see if they have received guidance to shield. Where this is confirmed, remote learning will be provided for students in line with DFE guidance.
- Pupils and staff who live with people who are CEV, but are not CEV themselves, are still expected to come into college.

Clinically vulnerable staff and pupils

- Staff and students who are clinically vulnerable or have underlying health conditions but are not clinically extremely vulnerable, should continue to attend college in line with current guidance and they should follow all school health and safety procedures and routines.

Copies of the college's updated operational plans and risk assessments which reflect the new guidance are now available in the "Covid" section of the website, changes and amendments have been highlighted.

In terms of the college picture it is very important to note that at St Michael's we have a very small number of positive cases (4) amongst staff and students since September, all transmission has been traced to outside of the college and no staff or students reported as contacts developed symptoms or tested positive during their quarantine period. In addition to this, whilst the number of positive cases in Southwark rose before half term, over the last week they have started to come down again. Therefore, I believe it is right and in students' best interests for St Michael's to remain fully open as we are currently able to operate safely and in line with very rigorous health and safety guidelines. However, this is subject to continuous review and amendments to provision may need to be made in future and at short notice if cases increase in the college or locally or should high levels of staff absence due to self-isolation/ illness make it impossible for the college to have all students on site safely. I will of course keep parents and carers updated should any changes to provision be required.

In the meantime, please ensure that your child attends college only if they or a member of your household do not have Covid-19 symptoms. I cannot stress how important it is that all students and families follow the lockdown guidance to keep our community safe and to keep the college open and operating as fully as possible.

Thank you for your continued support and co-operation at this challenging time.

Yours faithfully



Ms F. Corcoran
Principal

