



# Sacred Heart Catholic College

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Web : [www.sacredheart.sefton.sch.uk](http://www.sacredheart.sefton.sch.uk)

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## To All College Parents

Dear Parent,

I hope you are all safe and well. We are looking forward to welcoming back all of our children next week and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support over the last few months. We greatly appreciate your efforts in helping your child through what I am sure have been some difficult times. It is this partnership between school and home which makes such a difference to all our students. So I would like to thank you all for helping us ensure that your child is ready for a full school return. School will reopen on Wednesday 2nd September 2020.

We have been open to vulnerable students and essential workers' children ever since the lockdown began. We have spent a great deal of time ensuring that we have followed the government's guidance about the full reopening of schools in September. Whilst the threat of spreading Covid-19 still exists, we have put in place a number of new arrangements to ensure we minimise further the threat of spreading the virus whilst delivering a full curriculum for our students.

We feel certain that school is as safe as it can possibly be and we want to welcome back every single one of our students in September, including those with certain medical needs who may have been classified as clinically vulnerable or clinically extremely vulnerable during the lockdown. If you have any queries regarding your child's medical needs, please contact Mrs Campbell.

As you will see, for the first half-term school will operate quite differently to normal. Students will have to take much greater responsibility for their conduct than ever before. We will be working together to ensure that the school is a safe place to work and study so that we minimise the risk of spreading the virus. There have been a number of changes to the College and the new school year will see some changes in line with Government guidance in keeping us safe. The basic principle behind these changes is that children in different year groups should be kept separate from each other as much as possible. This new arrangement is what we call a "Year Group Bubble." This has been planned for with a number of changes to the site and the navigation around it which you can watch on the video on our website. Whether students cycle to school or walk, to help us contain any spread of the virus, they should not mix with students from outside their Year Group.

The students will follow their normal timetable, within their normal classes for each subject. Staff will be able to move between the Year Group Bubbles so that we can have the right teachers in front of the right classes at the right time. There will be minimal practical work and there will be no extra-curricular activities. Our lunch menu will be modified to ensure cleaning is more efficient and items such as cutlery are not needed. We encourage all students to bring a packed lunch.

There are five major steps we must take to prevent the spread of the virus and students will be expected to cooperate fully to help us ensure those five major steps are implemented every single day of school:

1. **Minimise contact** with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school.
2. **Clean hands** thoroughly more often than usual. To help this the school has installed many more sinks, created three new toilet blocks and installed hand sanitiser stations at each classroom door.
3. Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the ‘**catch it, bin it, kill it**’ approach, each classroom is equipped with a box of wipes, tissues, hand sanitiser and new lidded bins.
4. Introduce **enhanced cleaning**, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, to facilitate this the college has increased the number of cleaners we employ and also increased their hours of work so that throughout the day items such as door handles and light switches are cleaned.
5. Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible. In addition to year group bubbles, you will see that classrooms are now set out differently, in particular in each classroom the teacher’s desk is 2m from the children as is the board.

In these extraordinary circumstances, we expect our students to behave responsibly and to help us run school safely. We have faith in our young people to step up and help us run school safely and effectively. It follows, then, that poor behaviour will not be tolerated. Parental support for our high standards and expectations will be crucial in helping us run school, and I would like to thank you in advance for your help in emphasising to your children how important it is that they play their part in the full reopening of school.

Full school uniform will be expected at all times, as outlined on the college website. Pupils will continue with PE and a larger changing area will be available. The school rules on punctuality and attendance apply and students will be expected to arrive punctually and fully equipped, ready for the school day. Students should ensure that full range of classroom equipment/stationery is brought to school as students cannot share equipment and staff will not give students spare equipment.

We will continue to listen to government advice on the wearing of masks and at this time we are not required to ask students to wear them due to the large open nature of our school spread over two sites which facilitates social distancing. However we are prepared for the eventuality of this becoming necessary and so have purchased a mask for each child which will be given to them should government advice change. These masks are reusable black masks made to a high specification. If, however you feel that your child should wear a mask anyway on their return, we will allow this and will provide you with one of these masks. Please contact school reception if you require your child to wear a mask.

Following the advice of Public Health England, we are focusing some of our increased hygiene around toilets, which need, for obvious reasons, to be kept extremely clean. Consequently, we are expecting students to manage the day so that they do not have to go to the toilet during lessons unless it is an absolute emergency. Any students found waiting in toilets unnecessarily will face disciplinary consequences. Drinking water fountains have been turned off as they are a potential site for spreading the virus. If your child wants to drink water during the school day, he or she must bring their own full drinking bottle with enough water to last for the day. Pupils should also bring a healthy snack for break if they wish as there will be no food available to purchase at break time.

### The First Week

On their first day back, on Wednesday 2nd September **Year 7** will have their Induction Day. They should use the Myers Road entrance to enter and exit lower site at all times. They should arrive at 8.40am on the Year 7 yard adjacent to this entrance. The morning will be spent with form tutors and they will have a series of taster lessons in the afternoon. They will be met on the Year 7 yard and taken to their form room and learning zone, parents should provide a packed lunch for their first day.

**Year 9** will also return to school on Wednesday 2nd September to have their transition to Upper Site, reporting to the tennis courts at 8.40 using the Endbutt Lane entrance. The same arrangements as for Year 7 apply, they will have the morning with their form tutors looking at timetables, expectations and having a tour of the school.

**Year 12** will also return on Wednesday 2nd September, reporting to the Sixth Form Centre at 8.40am, using the Endbutt Lane entrance. Students will then be based with sixth form tutors in the morning where they will work through induction activities and review new timetables for their A Level subjects. Year 12 students will be dismissed at midday.

On Thursday 3rd September, **Year 7 and 9** pupils will work remotely at home to allow our year 8/10/11 pupils some time to familiarise themselves with the new arrangements after a long period away from school.

**Year 8** will return on Thursday 3rd September and should use the Marlton Avenue entrance to enter and exit lower site at all times and arrive at 8.40am on the Year 8 yard adjacent to this entrance. The morning will be spent with form tutors and they will have a series of taster lessons in the afternoon. They will be met on the Year 8 yard and taken to their form room and learning zone.

**Year 10** will also return on Thursday 3rd September and should report to the tennis courts at 8.40 and will spend the morning with their form tutors. They will be dismissed at 12.00. Year 11 should report to the tennis courts at 12.40, spending the afternoon with their form tutors and dismissed at normal time.

**Year 13** will also return on Thursday 3rd September, reporting to the Sixth Form Centre at 8.40am, using the Endbutt Lane entrance if possible. Students will then be based with sixth form tutors in the morning and will be dismissed at midday.

On Friday 4th September, all pupils will commence their normal timetable.

**The main symptoms of Covid-19 are:**

1. A high temperature
2. A new, continuous cough
3. A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

To help us keep the school safe and open, please do not send your child into school if they are feeling ill and especially if they have even just one of the symptoms listed above. If students are poorly and show any of these symptoms, we will contact their parents to come into school to collect them from our Covid-19 isolation room. If in any doubt, please look after your child at home. Students who show any of the main symptoms of Covid-19 must be tested for the virus. School reception will give you a letter if we have to send your child home because they are symptomatic. Students who are symptomatic will not be allowed back into school until they have been tested for Covid-19 and school has been able to verify the result of the test.

We feel confident that our students will rise to the considerable challenge and play their part in ensuring a successful full reopening of school. If you have any queries over the coming week, please contact us. To finish I would like to thank all the students, staff, parents and governors who have worked so hard together to keep our school open and to keep our students studying, in school or remotely, throughout the pandemic. We will hit the ground running in September and, with a bit of luck, we will soon be able to return to some kind of normality.

Yours Sincerely



Mr J Pye  
Headteacher