



All Hallows Catholic School

Weybourne Road
Farnham
Surrey
GU9 9HF

Acting Headteacher : Mr Mark Baines
11th September 2020

Dear Parent / Guardian

I am writing to thank you and your family for your support on the successful reopening of the school to all students. The staff have been delighted with the positive attitude the students have returned to school with and many new staff have commented on something we all know - how lovely and fantastic our students are!

I would like to thank all the students, parents and staff for their support, in ensuring the measures we have in place remain true to our schools vision of forming 'happy, successful students who reach their full potential.'

Adaptations to procedures

We have been reflecting, learning and adapting our processes as the different movements of students take place. We are constantly identifying pinch points, responding to Government Guidance and improving our processes to move students quickly and safely from their playground to their classroom to maximise their learning time. We are grateful for the students support in making the movement of students successful so far.

Students may have noticed some staff wearing face coverings in the canteen or at the end of the day around the crossing or the buses. This is an additional measure we have added to ensure staff can safely care for students, where the situation requires them to be less than two metres from the students.

All year groups in the Lower and Upper School (Years 7 – 11) completed a year group fire drill this week, with the Sixth Form fire drill to occur next week, to show them the processes in the case of emergency. We will complete a full school fire drill by the end of September and whilst that may mean compromising the social distancing advice for a limited time, it is critical that all our students know how to respond to a fire emergency.

COVID Related Absence Quick Guide

For your reference, I have attached to this letter a guide to the procedures for COVID related absences. I hope this gives you some clarity on what to do in all scenarios.

Please do continue to look at the reopening information shared on 24th August, [which can be found on the school website](#).

 01252319211

 allhallows.net

 admin@allhallows.net

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The 2020-25 School Strategy is based around four objectives; **Family, Achievement, Curriculum** and **Environment**. We remain focused of achieving our goals for this year to ensure the best educational experience for your child to ensure they are happy and successful during their time at All Hallows and I look forward to sharing news about our progress throughout the year.

 <p>Family</p> <p>Everybody benefits from and contributes to the All Hallows Family, where all of our actions & relationships are underpinned by Gospel values.</p>	 <p>Achievement</p> <p>Irrespective of their starting point or background, all members of our Family make exceptional progress and achieve their God-given potential.</p>	 <p>Curriculum</p> <p>Students experience an innovative spiritual and academic curriculum, that provides a wide range of learning opportunities for all.</p>	 <p>Environment</p> <p>Learning spaces that inspire excellence, are environmentally sustainable and celebrate our Catholic faith.</p>
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Family

The Heads of Key Stage have launched the schools five **core values** to students and staff, which will drive our renewed Rewards scheme where we will be recognising when students display these values across the school. In addition, Heads of Department are planning for a range of House Events where further points will be awarded and will provide some friendly competition between the eight different Houses.

In the students planners there are some ideas for students of how they can demonstrate these values in action, and so I would encourage you and your child to read these together and consider what these values mean for you as a family. I know your childs' form tutor or Head of Year would love to hear if and how they have showed these values at home or across the wider community.

Respect	Respecting ourselves, others and our community
Courage	Never giving up and taking on new opportunities.
Responsibility	Taking ownership of our actions and who we are
Consideration	Being thoughtful and giving our time for others
Intellectual Curiosity	Using new ideas and concepts, challenging our way of thinking

Despite the restrictions we find ourselves under, the Catholic life of the school continues to thrive, albeit in slightly different ways than we are used to. Students are still able to pray in their form groups and our assistant lay Chaplain, Mrs Haigh, is on-site during the week.

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Later this month we begin our programme of 'away days' which for the time being will take place in school, but these days will enable students to have some time out of their normal routine in order to experience a day of prayer, reflection and friendship.

In line with Government Guidance and our own Risk Assessment we are unable to gather large groups together for Masses and Liturgies as we normally would, so while our Friday masses are currently still attended by staff, we are looking forward to the time we can gather together in greater numbers to celebrate mass as a community with our students. Similarly, our Year 7 welcome Mass will take a different format later on during this half term.

Achievement

Later this term, students will be receiving their target grades and further on they will be receiving their first tracking reports. For students in Key Stage 3, you will notice that target grades are GCSE targets instead of the previous National Curriculum levels, which are no longer in use. To give a realistic indication of progress, your reports will show whether you are on track to achieve your target, if you are exceeding expectations or if you are below / significantly below expectations. Further information will be provided later on this half term.

At Key Stage 4 and 5, targets and reported grades will be very similar to last year, with current progress being reported against your exam targets.

During the week beginning 14th September, Y11 students will be completing assessments during normal lessons in all of their subjects. This will give students a good idea as to how well they have understood the work covered during lockdown and will help teachers to plan accordingly, bearing in mind there isn't time to simply re-teach everything from lockdown.

Curriculum

Before the holidays, department heads spent a lot of time reviewing the structure and content of our curriculum for this forthcoming year. I am sure you can appreciate that we can't revisit the whole of the learning covered during closure, nor would all of our students need us to.

Some subjects have started the year reviewing select pieces of information or skills needed for the next stage of learning, to ensure that there are no gaps or misconceptions. Other subjects have moved straight onto new content, but have earmarked opportunities to embed and review key concepts, skills and knowledge covered during closure as they go. Either way, we have asked departmental heads to map and rationalise to us their approach, so we are confident that your children are getting what they need this year to do well.

On the two INSET days at the start of the term, staff spent time exploring strategies to teach 100-minute lessons effectively, as well as how best to support your children during lessons after their extended time away. Our approach is inspired by [work of John Hattie](#), who has studied the approaches of countries such as New Zealand who, because they experience natural hazards frequently, are far more experienced than us in the UK at supporting students returning to school after extended periods away.

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With increased confidence in our online systems, we have made the decision to set homework to all year groups through Microsoft Teams. Students will be able to see homework tasks in line with the Homework Timetable for each year group, and teachers will specify how best to submit work for each task. We hope that this will help to provide more information to you, as parents, in supporting your child to complete tasks at home.

Environment

Over the summer, many improvements were made to the site, developing new learning spaces and renewing older spaces. During this week's assembly I shared with all students videos of the different projects that have taken place and I am delighted with the students response and how they are enjoying the improvements made. We will continue to make improvements where we can over this term, to give the students the best space to learn and socialise in.

Thank you to all members of our All Hallows Family for a great start to the new school year.

Yours faithfully



M A Baines
Acting Headteacher

 01252319211

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