

# All Hallows Catholic College

A Voluntary Academy | National Teaching School

*Aspire not to have more but to be more*

Brooklands Avenue, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 8LB | Telephone: 01625 426138 | Fax: 01625 468126 | admin@allhallows.org.uk | www.allhallows.org.uk

Principal - Mr T Beesley

26<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

## RE: COVID-19 (Coronavirus) – Updated Information and Advice for Parents and Carers

I hope you and your families are well. Even though it is half-term, I wanted to share some information with you about the latest government guidance, as well as asking you to complete a couple of surveys, to assist us with our planning.

### Year 10 & 12 Students

Yesterday we received DfE guidance for secondary schools, regarding the phased return of some pupils to education settings. The guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-schools-from-1-june/planning-guide-for-secondary-schools>, and should be read in conjunction with previous guidance about implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

Over the last few weeks, and prior to yesterday's guidance, like many schools we have been planning what form things might take when we do welcome more groupings of Year 10 & 12 students back into College. Whilst I know it has been frustrating, it has been necessary to wait, as we are now clear as to what is permitted and expected with regard to potentially bringing more students back into College. The main points are as follows:

- From the week commencing 15 June, secondary schools can invite Year 10 & 12 students back into school for some face-to-face support with their teachers, subject to the government's 5 tests being met
- This face-to-face support is to supplement the remote education of these students, which should remain the predominant mode of education during this term
- This face-to-face support must be for no more than a quarter of the Year 10 & 12 cohort at any one time

In order to minimise contact and mixing as far as possible, schools should consider the following:

- Ensuring sufficient distance between students is likely to mean classes are no more than half their usual size
- Mixing between different groups of students should be kept to a minimum
- Where rotas are used, secondary schools should avoid split day rotas within the same day and ensure that only a quarter of children are ever in the school on any one day (e.g. morning and afternoon rotas should not be applied)

Schools should ensure that the use of public transport to travel to and from school is minimised as far as possible. Where it is totally necessary, this should not be during peak times. Schools should introduce staggered start and end



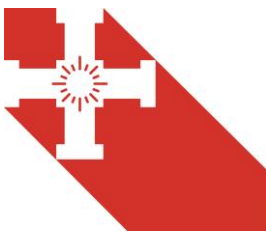
*Honourable Purpose*

*Respect*

*Compassion*

*Co-operation*

*Stewardship*



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times as appropriate to help achieve this. Students should be encouraged to walk or cycle where possible, and schools should also carefully consider the following:

- How many students in Year 10 & 12 will be travelling at the same time
- How those students are likely to travel
- The likelihood of students mixing with each other and coming into contact with other people on the journey to and from school

The guidance makes it clear that schools have the flexibility to implement face-to-face support for Year 10 & 12 students in the way that best suits their circumstances. It is up to schools to decide how they want to use face-to-face support in the best interests of their students, including additional pastoral support, academic support, practical support, or a combination of these.

We understand that some parents and carers of Year 10 & 12 students may have concerns around sending their child into College for this provision. I would like to remind you that the usual formal attendance policies for schools have been paused at this time, and we will be respectful of families' concerns regarding underlying medical conditions and other vulnerabilities. We are currently in the process of completing all necessary risk assessment documents, protocols and other vital work for this stage of our plan, and we will communicate this with you once they are finalised. In the meantime, however, we need to ask parents and carers of Year 10 & 12 students whether you would be happy to send your children to school, in small, appropriately socially distanced groupings or for some one-to-one contact with teachers. We need to know what concerns or questions you might have, in order for you to feel as safe as possible about this. We would ask, therefore, that you complete the following survey, by no later than 12 noon on Friday 29 May: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/L5R2V3P>. Your replies will be treated in the strictest confidence.

## Remote Learning

The new government guidance makes it clear that whatever in-school provision is available for Year 10 & 12 students, it is only to supplement the remote education of these students. Remote learning will remain the predominant mode of education during this term, not just for Years 10 & 12, but for all other students too. I mentioned in my last letter that we have been reviewing best practice across the College, identifying which strategies staff believe are working well in engaging students, and which are not as effective. The Teaching & Learning group are meeting this week to discuss the findings, and Subject Leaders are meeting next Tuesday, to continue planning for the rest of the term. Before this meeting takes place, we would welcome your views on our approach to home learning. Please take the time to complete the following survey, by no later than 12 noon on Friday 29 May: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LYHDD8R>. Your replies will be treated in the strictest confidence. We will be setting a student version of the survey on Show My Homework next week.

## Year 10 Work Experience

We were disappointed that both Year 10 & Year 12 work experience had to be cancelled, due to the current pandemic. As part of their ongoing and impartial Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG), however, we still wanted our students to access some online resources. Mr Blades published challenges for Year 10 on Show My Homework using two websites; Start Profile and Unifrog. These challenges required students to investigate courses and careers, produce CVs and look at job descriptions. Unifrog is a website that our students will use more and more, as they enter Year 11. Students were also invited to attend a virtual careers festival, organised by the Macc Pledge, the organisation that organised this year's well-received careers fair. All of Year 10 have been



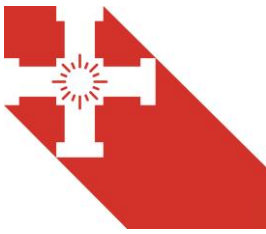
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invited to email our impartial careers advisor, Joanne Green from Changing Education, with any careers related questions they may have. All of these details can be found on Show My Homework.

I will not be writing to you again during half-term, unless there is something urgent that needs to be shared, and there will be no work set over the course of this week. Thank you very much for all your continued messages of support – they are greatly appreciated. We have all had to adapt to new ways of working over the last couple of months, and I want to thank you for all that you are doing to support your child's wellbeing and learning. As always, your feedback and continued support is much appreciated, and if you do want to contact me about any issue, please email me at [principalpa@allhallows.org.uk](mailto:principalpa@allhallows.org.uk)

God Bless

Tim Beesley  
Principal



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