



RESPECT
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Cardinal Heenan Catholic High School

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Ms K. Smyth Headteacher

KS/JR

08th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers and Pupils

Arrangements week beginning 11 January 2021

I hope that you and your family have managed to get through the first week of online learning and that there is still peace and harmony at home. In the current situation, online learning is very important but it should not be at the expense of family unity and accord. I trust that understanding and kindness will prevail and that collectively we can work through these difficult times.

In accordance with the government announcement earlier this week, the school remains open only for key workers' children and "vulnerable" children. For this to happen I have had to use the pastoral leaders and non-teaching staff. This is because the teaching staff are working full timetables teaching Year 11 and 13 pupils from home, whilst also preparing for all years to be taught online from next week. Can I ask that if you have booked a place for your child in school that you send him in. If you do not do this then you are taking a place from another child and your child will be marked absent, as you have told us to expect him. Booking a place and not using it also adds to the workload of the administrative and pastoral teams because we have to find out the reason for the non-attendance. I would like to thank all the staff who are in the school for their continued dedication and support. Without them we wouldn't be able to cater for these children which in turn would impact on the ability of their parents to play a part in combating this awful virus.

Free Schools Meals

Liverpool City Council will be ordering Asda vouchers on our behalf and we will receive them every two weeks. We used this system before Christmas and it seemed to work well. When we receive them we will post them directly to you.

Liverpool City Council are also ordering them for February half term using the Covid Winter grant – so that period is also covered. We have been asked to order them by **4.00PM on Monday the 11 January 2021**. We placed our order today but if I am honest, we are unlikely to get them until the middle of next week. If there is anyone who needs support before the vouchers arrive, please contact the school and we will do everything we can to help you.

Once we have taken delivery of the vouchers, we will send them out in first class post. We have today taken delivery of cereal and bagels which can be distributed to our families on request.



Mass testing of students

You may also have read that schools were asked to provide mass Coronavirus testing for students. This was first mentioned when there was a hope that Year 11 and 13 would return on the 11th of January. We started to formally plan for this on Sunday 3 January so that we were ready. When news broke that only the children of 'key workers' and vulnerable pupils could attend school, we continued the process of organising our centre so that all the staff and students in the building



felt safe in the knowledge that everyone had been tested. It is my intention that all staff and students are tested twice a week so as to keep our school Covid free. We are very grateful for the support of all those who are attending school as they have all consented to this. If your child is on the rota to attend school next week please complete the **consent form** which is on our website. Please note that this testing does not replace other testing. If, for example, your son becomes symptomatic, he should self-isolate and be tested as soon as possible by the NHS as usual, rather than sent into school for a test. Asymptomatic testing continues to be available for all those who live or work in Liverpool.

Increasing Children's Mobile Data Scheme

The Department for Education have recently announced that, in some circumstances, students in secondary schools who do not have broadband at home and are using mobile data to access online lessons, can request a FREE temporary increase to their mobile data allowance. This increase would likely last for the duration of the current lockdown, in the first instance.

Students with laptops who do not have broadband (Wi-Fi) at home could use the mobile phone as a 'hotspot' for internet access on their laptop. The scheme is aimed at students in Years 7 to 11 (or more precisely, 'all schools with children in Years 3 to 11').

We will still submit applications for students in the sixth form too. The criteria for being able to access the mobile data increase are those students that do not have fixed broadband at home, and cannot afford additional data for their devices. Students with access to a mobile phone on one of the following networks might be able to benefit:

- Three
- Smarty
- Virgin Mobile
- EE
- Tesco Mobile
- Sky Mobile
- O2

Other providers may join the scheme at a later stage, though all of the major providers are now taking part. If your mobile phone network is not listed, please still complete the form.

We will submit your application should your provider decide to take part in the scheme at a later date.

Years 7,8,9,10,12

Online lessons will begin for all of the pupils listed above. Many of them have not had the experience of MS teams. I wrote to you earlier this week about how to use the system and I gave you the link to our website.

<https://www.cardinal-heenan.org.uk/page/?title=Letters+Home&pid=94>

Can I ask that parents support pupils in all aspects of the online schooling initiative and this includes the implementation of the school's behaviour policy. Please note that all incidents of poor or inappropriate behaviour will be reported directly to me and I will act upon these referrals.

Students have emailed me about the pitfalls of being taught all 5 lessons online. Based on their recommendations, you should expect that lessons will start on the hour (following the school timetable) and that they will be between 45-50 mins long. Your son should be online at 8:45am to register with his Form Tutor or take part in a Year group assembly. Students have intimated that they are struggling to complete the work within the allocated time. In view of this we will be reviewing the process over the next week. We welcome feedback from parents so feel free to contact your son's head of year.

Year 11/13

We would like to update you with the prevailing information that we have regarding the assessment and awarding of the GCSE and A level grades this summer. Schools have not been issued with any formal guidance as yet to determine exactly how our pupils will be assessed. Please be assured that when this information is released, we will communicate it quickly to you so that there is clarity about how to best prepare for the 'alternative arrangements'. It is critical that all pupils and parents understand that there will be a form of assessment for all subjects that determines their GCSE/A level grade outcomes. Therefore, as we await the government's updates, all pupils must remain focused and continue to be committed to their studies in order to secure the best possible grades.

Our school will continue to deliver the curriculum content virtually for each subject until it is possible to resume face-to-face teaching. Teachers have been advised that all Year 11 and 13 work has the **full potential** to form part of the overall GCSE/A level grade that may be awarded for each subject. This will include participation and engagement with virtual learning and the submission of class work and homework on MS Teams and Synergy for teacher assessment and feedback. It is therefore vital that all pupils access their MS Teams lessons and submit all requested work from their subject teachers. Without this evidence it could prove to be extremely difficult to determine and or justify your grades.

We understand that pupils and indeed parents may need support over the coming weeks to access the online learning or simply ask questions about subject content and skills. Help and support is always available either through the MS Teams lessons themselves, or from the form tutor contact that will take place on a regular basis. You can also contact school at any time and an appropriate member of staff will be more than willing to assist you.

We would also like to take the opportunity to remind Year 11 pupils about your sixth form applications. Since returning to school in September, Year 11 pupils have been encouraged to apply for sixth form places so please ensure that you submit your applications well in advance of any pending deadlines in order to ensure that you are in a strong position to secure your preferences. We ask all applicants to choose four subjects but they are very likely to only study the necessary three. Filling in the application now allows us to appropriately place the options into blocks allowing as many pupils as possible to study their three first choice subjects.

Yours sincerely



Ms K Smyth
Headteacher