



# BISHOP VAUGHAN

## CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Friday, 03 September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the new term approaches, I would like to provide you with a further update with regard to the arrangements that will be in place when your child returns to school.

You will be aware that the Welsh Government's operational guidance to schools has changed, now that Wales as a whole is at risk level zero. We are conscious however that many parents and carers remain concerned, as it is well-documented that case rates locally are exceptionally high. Please be assured that the school will be keeping in place numerous risk mitigation measures to ensure the safety of pupils and their families. The Welsh Government guidance allows for schools to take a flexible approach to risk mitigation that is responsive to the local situation.

We will therefore be:

- Continuing the use of separate entrances for each year group, as outlined in my previous letter to you <https://www.bishopvaughan.co.uk/post/summer-letter-18th-august-2021>. This has significantly improved road safety around the school and supports us in the next measure –
- Ensuring hand sanitisation on entry to school and throughout the school day
- Implementing the partial staggering of lunchtime to reduce numbers in the dining halls
- Ensuring that pupils wear face coverings on school transport. Pupils should also to wear a face covering in communal spaces such as the corridors, year bases and Main Hall. These need no longer be worn in classrooms, however we are conscious that many of our pupils will want to continue to use them as a matter of personal preference, and they will be supported in doing so.
- Asking that our pupils undertake twice weekly lateral flow tests, in line with the recommendation of Welsh Government on this. We are able to distribute kits to all pupils for whom a consent form has been received. This can be found here: <https://forms.office.com/r/RkiFYrZZD8>
- Continuing with the frequent cleaning of high-touch areas throughout the school day.

As previously stated, all arrangements for keeping our pupils safe rely heavily upon everyone in our community ensuring that no one attends the school site if they are experiencing Covid symptoms and taking account of the current guidance, which outlines the following essential measures:

A requirement that people stay at home and self-isolate if they:

- have symptoms of COVID-19, whether they feel unwell or not
- have tested positive, even if asymptomatic

- have been advised by NHS Wales Test Trace Protect (TTP) to do so
- are required to self-isolate for travel-related reasons

Although the current policy is that those who are double-vaccinated and/or the age of 18 need no longer self-isolate if they are confirmed as contacts of a positive case, it is vital that anyone with symptoms must still isolate immediately and seek a PCR test. This will be critical to keeping all in the school community safe. The guidance is updated regularly and can be found here: <https://gov.wales/operational-guidance-schools-and-settings>.

We look forward to welcoming all of our pupils back to school on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September in time for an 8.50am start. We wish all of our pupils and their families a happy, healthy and successful academic year ahead -

Yours faithfully,



Mrs E Pole  
Headteacher