



Parent Newsletter

St Mary Magdalene Secondary

Issue No 02 | September | Thursday 17th September

Dear Parents/Carers,

I write to you all to firstly thank you for sending your children to school last week. We had very high attendance in all year groups and I am grateful for your trust and support. My priorities were to ensure the safe return to school for all of our students and to establish our year group bubbles; we were able to do this successfully and students are aware of our expectations.

Student data and temperature checks

Some parents have contacted the school and requested that no data of their family be shared for Covid-19 purposes as well as stating that their children should not be temperature checked at school.

If you would not like your child to be temperature checked or any data be shared for test and trace purposes please email info@koinoniafederation and let us know as soon as possible.

Covid-19 related absence

Having said our attendance has been good, we have had to send some students home, or parents have decided to keep students off for displaying flu symptoms. If a child is displaying cold symptoms please do send them to school; we will not send any student home who complain of a cold. In the event of a flu, we will send students home after contacting parent/carers. Please note, you are only to self-isolate and get tested, if you display one of the following symptoms:

- A high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back
- A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

After receiving your test results, students can return to school straight away if the results are negative.

Uniform

Some students did not fully adhere to the school uniform expectations last week and in most instances did not receive consequences. This will not be the case from now on and I would like to repeat the school uniform expectations and the consequences for not having the correct uniform.

We do **not** allow students to wear make up including eyelash and nail extensions. A watch and only one pair of stud earrings in the ears is permitted. Apart from this, no other jewellery is allowed. Hair bands, bobbles or clips should be plain black or grey. Headscarves/hijabs should be plain black or grey.

*At the moment, as you know, to avoid changing in the school changing rooms, students are allowed to wear their PE kit to school. Please ensure that this is the correct PE school uniform and not just non uniform. **Pupils must wear:** trainers, black sports socks, black tracksuit bottoms/short/sports leggings, their SMM PE top and their SMM Blazer.*

UNIFORM (All students):

Blazer*	Blazer from school supplier only
Trousers	School trousers, mid-dark grey, no fashion trousers
White shirt	Plain, long sleeved school shirt, stiff collar, no designer features
School tie*	School tie from school supplier only
School jumper*	School jumper from school supplier only
Grey socks	Plain
Black shoes	Plain, black, flat school shoes (below the ankle) – must be polishable
Kilt*	St Mary Magdalene tartan kilt from school supplier. The kilt length must be below the knee
Grey tights or plain grey socks	Tights must be at least 40 denier
Head covering (optional)	Plain, mid-dark grey (no fashion scarves)
Outdoor coat	Plain; single colour with no designer features
Bag	A large bag (to carry A4 books and equipment)

P.E. KIT:

PE Rugby shirt and/or polo shirt *	From school supplier only
Black shorts	From school supplier or another retailer
Tracksuit bottoms	From school supplier or another retailer
Black socks	From school supplier or another retailer
Trainers	Suitable for all sports on all surfaces

SIXTH FORM UPDATE

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 11 Students,

I hope you have had a lovely and restful summer break and have continued to keep well and safe during these times.

Planning for the Sixth Form is well underway, and more information will be shared with you over the next month. This will include dates for our upcoming open events when you will have the opportunity to learn more about our sixth form curriculum, different pathways, entry requirements and be able to speak to teachers about subjects that will be on offer.

In the meantime, if you have any questions about the sixth form please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office. Please do continue to keep safe.

Sincerely,

Miss Kwabi
Head of Sixth Form

Attendance and Punctuality

We expect all of our students to attend school every day and on time. All students should be present at family group line up by 0845.

Parents/carers can request a short leave of absence in exceptional circumstances but not for a holiday at any point. Holidays taken during term time will be will be unauthorised and may be referred to the attendance advisory service.

Food at break and lunch

During our first week back at school, we were able to successfully serve lunch to all over 900 students. This week, I would like to enable students to bring a small healthy snack to school to consume during break. Students will be allowed to eat this snack outside within their year group bubble areas. I would like to stress:

- **Healthy snacks only e.g. a piece of fruit – any sweets, chocolate, biscuits/cookies, crisps, fizzy drinks, Subway, McDonalds etc. will be confiscated and not returned.**
- **Our outdoor areas must remain clean and tidy. If they are not, students within each year group will be asked to clean their areas and may result in students not be allowed to eat at break again.**

Mobile phones and Electric devices

Mobile phones or any other electronic devices are not permitted to be used in school. If they are seen, they will instantly be confiscated and not returned until the end of the week. If this happens on more than one occasion, the phone will be confiscated until the end of term.

Please note, [Section 91 Education and Inspections Act 2006](#), enables a member of staff to confiscate, keep or dispose of pupil's property as a disciplinary measure where it is reasonable to do so. Staff have a defence to any complaint provided they act within their legal powers. The law protects members of staff from liability for any loss of or damage to any confiscated item, provided that they have acted lawfully.

Having said the above, please do support the school in sanctions provided. The school behaviour policy is non-negotiable, and even in the event of a complaint, will always be upheld.

As previously stated, if you need to contact any staff member please email either info@koinoniafederation.com or romard@koinoniafederation.com. You can also leave a message with the main office. Please bear in mind, we are now at full capacity with over 900 students and schools are incredibly busy places. Unless there is an emergency, we will aim to get back in touch within 2 working days. Please do not come to the school without an appointment as it will not be possible to see you. As a school, we will not tolerate abuse, threats or aggressive behaviour from parents/carers or family members.

Since the start of term, we have had to issue very few detentions. Reward points earned by individuals and family group have been extremely high. I hope the positive start to the school year continues. I look forward to working alongside all of our families this year and pray for an uninterrupted school year.

Sincerely,

Mr R Hussain
Principal