



# Parent Newsletter

St Mary Magdalene Secondary

Issue No 09 | January | Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January

Dear parent carers

I write to you firstly to wish you all a happy new year. Since Christmas, there have been a few changes relating to testing and self isolation which I will share with you. To begin with though, I would like to share a few staffing changes.

Due to the ongoing challenges of keeping schools open for face to face learning, we have added further leadership capacity. Mr Watson is now one of the school's Assistant Principals and Mr Freeburn is the new Director of the Culture and Society faculty. With this, Miss Woolsey has been appointed the new Head of Year 8 and will work closely with Mr Freeburn for the rest of this academic year. I would like to congratulate them all and welcome them to their new posts.

#### Staff update

I would also like to welcome Mrs Budithi, who has joined as a Maths teacher and Mr Hutton, who is our new DT teacher.

#### Updates on COVID (taken from DfE):

Temporary suspension of confirmatory PCR tests in education. You are only asked to take a follow up PCR test after a positive LFD test if you:

- wish to claim the Test and Trace Support Payment
- have been advised to take a PCR test because you are in a clinically vulnerable group
- have been advised to do so as part of a research or surveillance programme
- have received a positive day 2 LFD after arriving into the UK

If anyone has any of the main symptoms of COVID-19, they are strongly advised to take a PCR test, not an LFD test. If someone with symptoms has already taken an LFD test for any reason and the result is positive, they do not need to take a follow-up PCR test.

From Monday 17 January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be [reported to NHS Test and Trace](#).

If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

#### Message from the Chaplain

Can you recognise yourself? It's not a silly question really.

Can you see what God sees in you?

Can you see a child of God who is loved and valued?

Can you look past the way the world sometimes sees us?

Can you get over the way we sometimes feel about ourselves?

Loving God, creator of the mighty stars, who brings the spark of life to each and every one of us.

Help us to see ourselves the way you see us – loved, valued, and unique.

Support us in our troubled times and inspire us in our good times.

Help us to see others as children of God, even when it's hard.

Help us to encourage others, even when it doesn't come easily.

Bless our community, our families and our school.

Amen.

**Reports**

Reports were sent home last week, along with a letter explaining these. If you have any queries, please get in touch with us.

**Year 9 GCSE preferences**

On 18 January, students were given a form on which to select their GCSE options. Please ensure this is returned to their family group tutor with your signature no later than Thursday 20 January.

**Enrichment**

Please see attached an updated version of the clubs on offer for the Spring term.

Please also find a letter attached from Sergeant Geoff Warren about keeping our young people safe in the local area.

Yours sincerely,

Mr R. Hussain

**Principal**