



St Robert of Newminster Catholic School and Sixth Form College



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Head Teacher: Mr. D. Juric
Chair of Governors: Mr. G. Moorhouse

1st September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your families have enjoyed a good summer. We are currently looking forward to welcoming students back to school next week. We have already sent details of the start of term and testing arrangements. I will not repeat this information in this letter, but I direct you to the letter sent out at the start of July which gives full details:

https://www.strobertofnewminster.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/9.7.21_Parents_Carers_information_for_Testing_Students.pdf

As previously stated, an updated full risk assessment and re-opening plan will be made available to you on the school website www.strobertofnewminster.co.uk for the start of term. However, I am taking this opportunity to send you a few practical messages regarding routines and procedures in a more digestible form.

Communication

Please continue to check any updates from the school sent via text message (ideally through the MyEd app) or posted on the school website. Although visitors will be allowed on site by prior arrangement, please continue to use telephone or email to communicate with the school where possible, to limit the number of visitors on site.

Transport/Arrival/Departure

If walking or cycling to school represents a feasible and safe choice for your child, we encourage students to take this option. If you bring your child to school by car, and are able to drop them safely near the school and allow them to walk the final stage, this will ease congestion. The wearing of masks on school buses is still expected. Students must tender the exact fare. School will end for all students at 3:20pm. (Initially Year 7 will leave at 3:10pm.)

Face Coverings

Face coverings are no longer compulsory in school, but students may continue to wear them if they wish. Unlike some schools, we have not specified a particular colour or design of mask. However, we request that any design or colour is appropriate for school, and the school reserves the right to make this decision. Students should wear face masks, not visors, scarves, bandanas, snoods, etc.



In School

Students will no longer be in year group bubbles and will have access to all teaching areas within the school. Hygiene, ventilation and cleaning measures will still be enhanced to reduce the risk of transmission within school. Water will be available at lunch from the canteen. We expect communal water dispensers to be switched on, but this will not be the case for the first two weeks of term, and so students should bring a bottle of water with them to school. All year groups will be able to access the canteen during the school day. The school is cashless, so please ensure your Parent Pay account is always in credit. If you have any issues with this, please contact your child's Head of House.

Symptoms, Positive Tests and Isolation

Students should not attend school if they are displaying symptoms of Covid19, or have tested positive for Covid19.

If someone in school develops symptoms, they will be sent home and should be picked up by a family member. Parents/carers should inform school if their child develops symptoms or tests positive for Covid19. If you test positive via lateral flow, you should seek a PCR test to confirm or rule out the lateral flow test.

If you test positive, your self-isolation period includes the day your symptoms started (or the day you had the test, if you do not have symptoms) and the next 10 full days. If you get symptoms while you're self-isolating, the 10 days restarts from the day after your symptoms started.

You can stop self-isolating after the 10 days if either: you do not have any symptoms, or you just have a cough or changes to your sense of smell or taste – these can last for weeks after the infection has gone.

You should keep self-isolating if you have any of these symptoms after the 10 days: a high temperature or feeling hot and shivery; a runny nose or sneezing; feeling or being sick; diarrhoea. Only stop self-isolating when these symptoms have gone. If you have diarrhoea or you are being sick, stay at home until 48 hours after they have stopped.

Students who are self-isolating due to Covid19 will be able to access lessons remotely, as per last school year.

Contact Tracing

Close contacts of positive cases will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace and schools will no longer undertake contact tracing. NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or their parent to identify close contacts.

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- **they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months**
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a [PCR test](#). We encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.



Young people aged under 18 years 6 months who usually attend school, and have been identified as a close contact, should continue to attend school as normal. They do not need to wear a face covering within the school, but it is expected and recommended that these are worn when travelling on public or dedicated transport.

We very much hope that these measures, in line with government guidance, will allow students to enjoy a safe and much more *normal* school year from September. Thank you for your cooperation with these arrangements. We very much look forward to welcoming students back to school.

Yours faithfully



Mrs J Bowen
Head of School

