



St John Fisher Catholic High School

EDUCATING FOR LIFE

Hookstone Drive, Harrogate, HG2 8PT

Head Teacher: Mr S Mort B.A. (Hons), NPQH

Telephone: (01423) 887254 Website: www.sjfchs.org.uk Email: office@sjfchs.org.uk

13th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

First and foremost, thank you to those parents who have been asked to collect their child from school due to the confirmed positive Covid-19 cases this week - your swift response and supportive messages have been very much appreciated. As a parent of two secondary school students, both of whom have recently been self-isolating, I can fully appreciate the inconvenience and frustration caused when you receive 'that' phone call from school.

During the past week we have had 11 confirmed positive Covid-19 cases. Consequently, we currently have 254 students across the school who are missing valuable learning time due to the need for them to self-isolate. Please be assured that these numbers are not dissimilar to other schools in the local area. We continue to work closely with, and seek advice from, Public Health England and NYCC Health Protection Team for each individual case.

Regrettably, some of these cases could have been avoided if parents/carers and sixth form students had followed the very clear guidance from Public Health England.

North Yorkshire Health Protection Team have asked us to reiterate the need for extra vigilance from all members of the school community during the current national lockdown period. In particular;

- **If your child or a member of the household is awaiting the results of a Covid-19 test**, you must keep your child at home until you receive the result. Should your child receive a positive test you must inform the school as soon as possible. If this is out of hours, please use covid@sjfchs.org.uk
- **If your child has been asked to self-isolate by the school**, they must do so for the full period, as outlined in the letter from the school, and must remain at home
- Your child only requires a test should they display symptoms. Taking a test, and subsequently receiving a negative result does not negate the requirement for them to self-isolate for the period outlined in the school letter.

In addition to the disruption caused to students learning, each case takes up a disproportionate amount of time due to the necessity to complete a track and trace exercise. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those colleagues who are undertaking this task alongside their normal duties.





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Face Coverings

As stated in my previous correspondence and as required by the Government, face coverings are now mandatory in all secondary schools on corridors and in communal areas. If your child meets the criteria for exemption from wearing a face covering, please advise us as to the reasons why via office@sjfchs.org.uk. Please note, this applies to all students in years 7 -13. Exempt students will be provided with a badge to wear on their lanyard to ensure that they are not challenged by staff.

It is our expectation that face coverings will be provided by parents/carers and we would recommend that students carry spares with them at all times.

Although we have distributed over 500 disposable face coverings since the requirement came into force, as you will appreciate, this is not sustainable both in terms of the impact on the school budget or the environment. It is our intention to source a small number of cloth face coverings which will be available for purchase for £2 from Student Services. In the unfortunate event of your child being without a face covering, from Monday 16th November, disposable face coverings will be available to purchase at a cost of 25p.

Remote Learning

Should your child be requested to self-isolate, teachers will provide work via Microsoft Teams as soon as possible. Please consider that teachers will still be teaching normal lessons for those students in the year group who remain in school. In the interim period, students can access learning on the Covid-19 section of the website.

If you have any concerns or questions relating to remote learning please direct these to the relevant Curriculum Head of Department via office@sjfchs.org.uk

Thank you for your continued support and patience during these increasingly challenging times.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Mort
Headteacher

