



# St Mary's Catholic School

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*where everyone can succeed*



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4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

## **Update: Years 7 to 10 and Year 12 return to school- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

Happy New Year to you and your families and I hope you all had a lovely Christmas.

You may have seen in the media on Wednesday evening last week that due to the significant rise in COVID-19 rates across the country, the government have now decided that Years 7 to 10 and Year 12 students cannot return to school on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January as previously planned. The government have decided that to protect the health and safety of all, Year 7 to 10 and Year 12 students will instead complete **remote learning at home during this week and next week** and will **return to school on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021**. Our Year 11 and 13 students return on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

**Just to note that the details outlined above are the government's current plan but as you know, this plan has been updated very regularly over the last couple of weeks and therefore, if anything further should change, we will be in touch.**

All students will be able to access high quality remote learning at home to support their studies. Lesson resources will be uploaded, lesson by lesson, onto Teams by the end of each lesson. Students will also be able to get in touch with their teachers via Teams to ask questions about their work and/or to ask for any further support needed. There is also a large bank of learning resources and revision materials for all subjects on the school website, to further complement the above learning. If you should have any questions about any aspect of this, please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's Head of Year.

The Government have said that vulnerable students and children of critical workers in Years 7-10 can attend school over the next two weeks, if parents or carers have no other alternative. I ask that, unless you have no other alternative, these students also work from home. As mentioned in my letter of the 18<sup>th</sup> December, I believe the real benefit of the staggered start is to significantly reduce the risk of students who may still be developing COVID-19 symptoms after Christmas, spreading the virus to other students. Furthermore, the reason the government have delayed the start of term for Years 7 to 10 and Year 12 students, as well as for other students, is because the transmission of COVID-19 in the community is so high, therefore, for the safety of everyone, we ask students to stay at home unless there is no alternative. You have already informed us by the deadline this morning, if you are a critical worker and want your child to attend school this week. If you are a critical worker and would like your child to attend school on any days next week, please complete [this form](#) and email it to the school admin email address no later than 9.00am on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021. This will aid our planning for next week. For your information, any students in school during the two weeks will not attend lessons; they will complete the same online work as the students working remotely at home.

Further details re the plan for rapid COVID-19 testing, will be shared with parents and carers in due course, once further government guidance and resources have been received and once the substantial planning that is needed has taken place.

Apologies for the short notice about these changes to the start of school next week but, as I hope you will understand, this was very much out of our control.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Patterson  
Headteacher