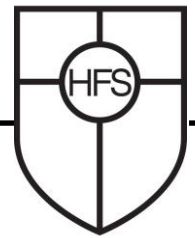


# The Holy Family

## Catholic School



Our Ref: SMA/DK

28 May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As school finishes for the half-term break, I wanted to write to thank you for your continued support this year and to update you on some changes we are making when students return after the holiday.

We are very much hoping that Covid 19 restrictions will be lifted as planned and that we will return a much more 'normal' school life when we return in September. In anticipation that we are using the next half term to reinforce the expectations we will have in September in terms of uniform, behaviour, attendance and presentation.

After half term, students will no longer be allowed to wear coats, jackets or hoodies in the classroom and inside school. The weather is warm enough now to allow for just the school uniform of blazer, shirt, tie and trousers. Additionally, as government guidance now allows us to open changing rooms, students will be expected to come in full school uniform each school day, bringing their PE kit on PE days to be able to change into. They will no longer be permitted to come into school in their PE kit.

As part of our ongoing review of the behaviour system in school, we have introduced a stage in the Behaviour Policy which allows students the opportunity to 'fix' their behaviour when things begin to go wrong before they begin to receive formal, recorded sanctions. This has been in place since we returned to school from the last lockdown in March and has led to a reduction in the number of students needing to be removed and also a reduction in the number of students receiving detentions which is obviously very positive. In order to support further improvements, we ask for your continued support to reinforce the need for good behaviour at all times and the importance of taking the opportunity to 'fix' their behaviour when offered, should the occasion arise.

We are delighted that the majority of students have registered full attendance with us since the return from lockdown in March. As always, we expect all students to attend school every day and come to school on time. We are conscious that students have missed significant time face to face lessons due to the lockdowns, therefore it is crucial they are in school every day in order to ensure they can take advantage of any catch-up activities that are on offer and also to ensure that no further face to face teaching time is missed.

Finally, prior to the first lockdown at the beginning of academic year 2019-20, we placed a major emphasis on the importance of a high standard of presentation of work in both exercise books/folders. Unfortunately, but understandably, those standards have slipped for some students so we will be using the last half-term of the year to reset those standards ready for the beginning of the new school year in September. On their return from the holiday, students will be given new exercise books to use for the last half-term of this year. They will also be expected to achieve a minimum standard of presentation in all books/folders, across all subjects.

Students will be given more information regarding how to achieve these standards when they return from the holiday and will be given plenty of time, support and guidance to enable them to get into the habit of getting this important basic expectation right. To support your son/daughter with this, can we please ask that you check that they have the required basic equipment when they return to school after the holiday. A full list of basic equipment can be found in the student planner and on the school website. Details of our September Ready initiative will be available for you to read, under the curriculum tab of the school website.

I would also like to draw your attention to the Safeguarding information on our school website. There is a Safeguarding tab under the Parents and Students sections on the site. This section contains information which may be useful for people facing challenges at what continues to be a difficult time for many. There is also an option to report any concerns you may have. This facility will be monitored over the half-term holiday. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need to.

Finally, please can I remind you that if any students are displaying Covid-19 symptoms or are required to self-isolate, they should not attend school but should remain at home. If this applies to your child(ren), please contact the school to inform us as soon as you can.

School closes at 2.50 pm today – Friday, 28 May 2021. We re-open to all students on Monday, 7 June 2021 at 8.35 am.

I wish you and your families a safe and restful half term break.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Mather'.

S Mather  
Interim Headteacher