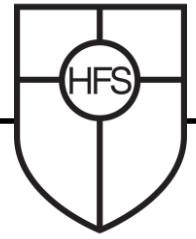


The Holy Family



Catholic School

Our Ref: SMA/DK

15 September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Now that all Year Groups have returned to school, I wanted to contact you to say how impressed the entire staff team have been with the start the students have made. Year 7 (and Year 8 who were very restricted in terms of moving around the school building last year) are doing a great job of navigating their way around. It is fantastic to have everyone back in school as a community and for us to be operating much more normally than we have been able to for the past 18 months.

Covid-19 Testing

For students who have been undergoing Lateral Flow Testing in school, the programme will finish tomorrow, Thursday 16th September. From then we ask you to please continue testing your child(ren) at home twice weekly until the end of September when the Government guidance on home testing will be reviewed.

Although the school is no longer required trace and inform close contacts of staff and/or students who test positive for Covid 19, we still want to do everything we can to minimise the spread of the virus. As such, please remember that if your child(ren) returns a positive Lateral Flow Test, displays any Covid-19 symptoms or is required to self-isolate, they should not attend school but should remain at home and follow the latest Government guidance. If this applies to your child(ren), please contact the school to inform us as soon as you can.

Covid 19 Vaccinations

You will also be aware that, the Health and Social Care Secretary has announced that young people aged 12 to 15 in England will be offered one dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, following advice from the four UK Chief Medical Officers (CMOs). The main purpose of the COVID-19 childhood vaccination programme is to provide protection to the children who receive the vaccine and help to reduce transmission of COVID-19 in the wider population. Healthy school-aged children aged 12 to 15 will primarily receive their COVID-19 vaccination in their school (with alternative provision for those who are home schooled), in secure services or specialist mental health settings.

Like all school-based vaccination programmes, the vaccine will be administered by healthcare staff with appropriate qualifications who are trained in the vaccination of children and young people. Please be assured that no vaccination can or will be administered without appropriate parental consent.

More information on the COVID-19 vaccine, the vaccination programme and how it will work, as well as answers to some frequently asked questions, will be included in the guidance for schools from Public Health England to be published shortly. I will update you with more information when I have it.

Medical Appointments

Can I please ask that all non-urgent medical appointments are made outside of the school day where possible to ensure that your child(ren)s learning is not negatively impacted. Where there is no alternative but to make an appointment during the school day, please let the attendance team at the school know as soon as possible and provide a copy of the appointment card, letter or text message which shows details of the appointment for our records.

School Events – Half Term 1

- **School Photographs** will be being taken on Monday 20th September. Photographs of years 7,12 & 13 will be taken as usual. Additionally, we will be photographing Year 8 students as they did not have the opportunity to have a photograph taken in school last year.

- **Year 6 Open Evening** will take place on Thursday 23rd September 6.00 pm - 8.00 pm. We are looking forward to welcoming prospective students, parents and carers to see everything the school has to offer. In order for us to have a chance to prepare the school, **we will close to all students at 12.15 pm on Thursday 23rd September**. The usual buses will be available at the earlier time. If you would like your child to remain in school until 2.50 pm as normal, please contact us and we will make arrangements.
- **HF6th Open Evening** will take place on Thursday 14 October 6.00 pm - 8.00 pm. This is an opportunity for students currently in Year 11 at Holy Family and also at other local schools to visit us and speak to staff regarding all aspects of life in the our Sixth Form.
- **Year 7 Day of Welcome** will take place on Thursday 21 October. Year students will spend this day engaged in activities linked to the school's Mission Statement, the Virtues and what it means to belong to The Holy Family Catholic School community.

Parents' Evenings

Following positive parental feedback regarding the remote Parents' Evenings we ran last academic year, we have decided to continue with this format for the coming year. Further detailed information will be sent out prior to each evening. If you require any support with accessing parents' evenings remotely, please contact the school and we will be happy to support you. As always, if you would like to discuss any aspect of your child(ren)s education at any time, please contact the school.

Parking/Road Safety

If you are collecting your child(ren) by car at the end of the school day, can I please ask that you adhere to the speed limit and road markings outside the school. You will have seen how busy it is between 2.50 pm-3.00 pm in particular and while staff do routinely supervise students leaving school, your support in this matter would help in ensuring that all are safe as they leave for the day.

And finally....

Please keep a regular check on our school website for up-to-date information on the day-to-day life of the school. In particular, I would like to draw your attention to the Safeguarding information on the website. There is Safeguarding tab under the Parents and Students sections of 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 is monitored during evenings and weekends as well as during the school day. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need to.

We also make regular use of social media to share information regarding what is happening in the school. We have a school Twitter feed: **@THFCS_Official**, and a school Facebook page; **@HolyFamilyCatholicSchoolKeighley**. Thank you to those of you who already follow us on social media and please consider doing so if you don't already.

I will be in touch with you again as and when I need to. I am sincerely hoping that this year will be much less disrupted than the last. However, if anything does change, in terms of Covid-19 restrictions, the Covid-19 vaccination programme or any other aspect of school life, I will contact you as soon as I am able with the details.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this letter and in anticipation of your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely



S Mather
Headteacher