

ST. ILLTYD'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Newport Road, Rumney,
Cardiff CF3 1XQ
Tel: 029 2077 8174
Email: stilltydshigh@cardiff.gov.uk
Website: www.stillyds.org.uk
Headteacher: Mr D B Thomas



YSGOL UWCHRADD GATHOLIG ILLTUD SANT

Heol Casnewydd, Rhymney,
Caerdydd CF3 1XQ
Ffôn: 029 2077 8174
Ebst: stilltydshigh@cardiff.gov.uk
Gwefan: www.stillyds.org.uk
Prifathro: Mr D B Thomas

26th March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you and your families are well.

I am writing to remind you of the arrangements for the start of term on Monday 12th April, which will see all year groups return in full uniform.

It has been great to see everyone return this half term. Year 11 have hit the ground running in working to secure their grades and Year 10 have started to pick up where they left off. In Years 9, 8 and 7 it has been an opportunity for friends to reunite and a chance to get ready for next term.

In my previous correspondence I have drawn attention to the fact that the virus, in its various forms, is still within our community. We all know this and as you are aware there have been cases in primary and secondary schools since reopening. I cannot thank you enough for all your support and care since last March in following the guidelines and ensuring that all of your children do the same. Could I please ask you to remind them before their return in April. They are:-

Under no circumstances should learners or staff attend schools/setting if they feel unwell, have any of the identified COVID-19 symptoms or they have tested positive to COVID-19 in the past 7 days. Also they should not attend if they live in a household with someone who has symptoms of COVID-19 or has tested positive to COVID-19 in the past 14 days.

Together with the Welsh Government and local authority we have placed nine safety principles in place and will continue to follow them:-

1. Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school.
2. Clean hands thoroughly more often than usual.
3. Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
4. Continue enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach.
5. Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible.
6. Where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
7. Engage with the NHS Test and Trace process.
8. Manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community.
9. Contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice.

In doing this we will have more chance in limiting the impact of this virus as and when we have positive cases. We have always tried to cover every possibility and make the site as safe as possible for all concerned but we cannot guarantee 100% safety from Covid 19. Be assured though that we are doing all that we can.

Together in Christ, we make a difference



The School Day

Our aim is to continue to make our school day as normal as possible and follow a broad and balanced curriculum. School transport will be running as normal too.

Pupils are to attend in full uniform. The wearing of blazers, however, will be optional for this term. We understand that those in Year 11 and Year 9 may have grown so this is to stop anyone having to buy a blazer for just one term. A white shirt and school tie will suffice. **No** sweatshirts, hooded tops etc.

Pupils will follow their normal timetable.

Pupils are to stay in “contact” groups within their **own year group** during lessons and break times.

There will be a one-way system in operation inside the school building. Pupils **must** follow it.

Pupils must social distance whenever possible, especially at break and lunchtimes.

Pupils must use the hand sanitiser provided on entering the building and leaving and entering classrooms.

The canteen will be open at both breaks.

Face coverings are to be worn in all public areas of the school and where possible in classrooms as well.

There will continue to be regular cleaning of the site including cleaning of door handles, desks etc.

Pupils will be expected to bring their own equipment as “sharing” is no longer an option under current conditions.

If any pupil is unwell in school, they will be isolated and their home will be contacted immediately to collect them.

Discussing the above points with your child and reminding them of them and their importance, will ensure that the days continue to go smoothly and help to keep us all safe.

Estyn

On another note I am delighted to announce that the school is no longer in Estyn monitoring.

We have been pushing for a resolution to our Estyn status for a while and we were on the verge of change before Covid happened and put the process on hold. It is great news for St Illtyd's and a testament to the hard work and dedication of the pupils and staff. It is also a justification to the parents and community who have never wavered in their faith and support of the school. Thank you all for that.

The local authority also wants to invest in the site and upgrade our facilities so that we can continue to serve our community as best we can. We are growing every year and this year we are oversubscribed again. It is an exciting time to be at the school and though this news confirms the advances we have made it is not an end in itself. We will always strive to be better in all that we do.

We are all looking forward to welcoming everybody back on the 12th and in the meantime have a happy and Holy Easter.

Take care everyone,

Mr D B Thomas
Headteacher