

ST. ILLTYD'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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



YSGOL UWCHRADD GATHOLIG ILLTUD SANT

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Gwefan: www.stillyds.org.uk
Prifathro: Mr D B Thomas

16th September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

COVID Update

It has been a great start to the term and the approach of all the pupils since their return has been excellent, even more so considering we are all still working under Covid conditions.

I wrote to you at the start of term outlining our new arrangements. Essentially little had changed apart from not needing to wear facemasks in communal areas. What has really changed is the impact of positive cases on pupils, staff and the school as a whole. Last year it was a question of classes and whole year groups having to isolate. Now it is Test, Trace, Protect (TTP) contacting close contacts through the information provided to them by the positive case.

This is a very different approach to what we have all experienced these last eighteen months and takes some getting used to. We have been notified of seven positive test results this week, across all year groups. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families concerned. TTP have contacted all of the close contacts they have been told about. I just need to inform you again of the new process:-

If your child tests positive for COVID-19 using a PCR test, NHS TTP will contact you, using the details provided when the PCR test was ordered. They will ask questions designed to identify recent close contacts of your child, and for contact details - if you know them - of the individual or their parent/carer. TTP will then get in touch with these close contacts to provide instructions or advice.

Those who are under 18 or fully vaccinated are no longer required to self-isolate if they are identified as close contacts, but they will be contacted to let them know that they've been in close contact with someone who has tested positive. They will also be offered two PCR tests and provided with information and advice on how to minimise the risks of onward spread. If your child is identified as a close contact, they can still attend school unless they develop symptoms or are advised otherwise by TTP. Please continue to let us know if your child tests positive.

If a child tests positive, only a minority of their classmates will be identified as close contacts. As there have been a number of cases TTP has asked us to update you on the situation, and remind you of key steps, including advising you to keep an eye out for new symptoms your child may develop, and to stay away from vulnerable family and friends in the short-term.

We do expect that there will be an increased number of cases of COVID-19 across our community over the coming weeks, but this does not mean that COVID-19 is spreading within the school. Please continue to be vigilant for symptoms. If you are in any doubt, order a PCR test for your child at www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or by calling 119.

Together in Christ, we make a difference

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Anyone with symptoms - a new continuous cough, fever or high temperature or loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste – should remain in self-isolation until the test result is known. You can find the latest information on self-isolation arrangements at www.gov.wales/self-isolation.

I will write again if the situation changes.

Thank you all for your continued support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. B. Thomas'.

D B Thomas
Headteacher