



The Bishop Konstant Catholic Academy Trust

Learning Communities, Inspired by Faith

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Dear Parents,

I hope that you managed to enjoy the half-term holiday. Whilst we may have expected a quieter start to the school year, the impact of COVID-19 on our Trust community was significant and prolonged, with many of the schools being disrupted by large outbreaks and extremely high rates of student and staff absence. Despite this, pupils and staff managed brilliantly, and all deserve huge credit and thanks.

We all want to see as many of our children and young people as possible in school and having as normal and positive a school experience as we can manage. Unfortunately, due to the rising rates of infections in the Wakefield District prior to half term, we will be following the recommendations of Wakefield Public Health:

1. If someone in the household has tested positive for COVID-19 (on LFD or PCR), schools will advise pupils to stay at home. If they develop symptoms, they should get a PCR test straight away. If they don't have symptoms, they should get a PCR test 3-5 days after their household member started with symptoms (or took their test if they had no symptoms). If this test is negative, the child can return to school but must stay at home and arrange another test if they go on to develop symptoms. Parents/carers who still want their child to continue to attend school have the right for them to do so, but we hope that most parents/carers will understand the reasons behind the request and will feel able to support the school. If a parent is not able to support the school in this request, we would still strongly advise that your child obtains a PCR test before returning to school.
2. The use of face coverings in classrooms and communal areas for secondary age and post-16 pupils is recommended, along with the use of face coverings by adults in all schools in communal areas, including on dedicated school transport.
3. Staff will ensure windows are open in the classroom to facilitate good ventilation, as much as is practicably possible.
4. Staff will reduce mixing between year groups and classes as much as possible to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19.
5. Whole-school or year group events e.g., assemblies will be suspended until further notice, and we will limit visitors to schools. School leaders will inform parents of arrangements for parents' evenings etc.
6. At the moment, educational trips and residential visits will not go ahead to avoid pupils and staff being on transport together for long periods, and/or sharing overnight accommodation.

As we have done throughout the pandemic, we will continue to take advice from Public Health and will regularly review this depending on the rates of infection in schools and we communicate any changes.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your understanding, patience, and support over the past two months. We rely hugely on our partnership with parents/carers and we very much value your feedback and involvement in school life.

Yours sincerely,

Lesley Fitton CEO