



The Bishop Konstant Catholic Academy Trust

Learning Communities, Inspired by Faith

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you managed a good break over half term, despite the wild weather!

New Covid Guidance

You will be aware that the government issued new advice during the half term holidays about self-isolation and testing which affects you and your child. This letter sets out what the new guidance is.

In the run-up to half term, we saw a more settled situation in most schools, with case numbers falling and fewer schools having disruptive outbreaks. This is good news, but rates are still high in the community and as with all infectious diseases it is important to maintain good practice to prevent outbreaks and protect people who are more vulnerable to severe illness.

Government advice is still that your child should stay at home and avoid contact with other people if they have tested positive for COVID-19 on an LFT or have COVID-19 symptoms. If your child is symptomatic, they should get a PCR test as soon as possible.

Your child can return to school after 10 full days of isolation. They may be able to return earlier if they test negative for two days in a row from day 5 of self-isolation and do not have a temperature. If they continue to test positive during the 10-day isolation they can return after completing 10 full days isolation. Your child will still receive work to do at home if they need to self-isolate in line with the Trust's Remote Learning Policy.

Secondary school aged pupils are no longer expected to wear a face covering in school classrooms or communal areas, but if there is a rise in infections in your child's school, this may change.

Ukraine

All of us will have been watching the terrible events taking place in Ukraine over this last week and our thoughts are with the Ukrainian people. The information in the news is very upsetting and extremely worrying, and children and young people will obviously have concerns and worries about this turn of events. All our schools have access to a wide range of resources and will do all they can to support pupils, and any families affected.

Pope Francis has based his message for this season of Lent 2022, on a passage from St Paul's Letter to the Galatians; "Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all" (6:9-10). Pope Francis explains that sowing goodness for the benefit of others frees us from narrow self-interest, infuses our actions with gratuitousness, and makes us part of the magnificent horizon of God's benevolent plan.

We pray for all those caught up in violence, remembering especially the people of Ukraine; that in this time of fear and conflict, they may know God's presence and peace.

Yours sincerely,

Lesley Fitton CEO