



# MARICOURT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Hall Lane, Maghull, Liverpool. L31 3DZ  
Telephone: 0151 330 3366 Fax: 0151 284 6631  
Headteacher: Mr. J. Mangan. BSc (Hons) BA NPQH

Dear parents and carers,

Following on from the information sent out on Friday, I would like to update you on how we are responding to the current situation. As always, we are following the latest government advice which can be found by following the link:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

The advice includes:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- always wash your hands when you get home or into work
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- avoid close contact with people who have symptoms of coronavirus
- avoid social activities, such as going to pubs, restaurants, theatres and cinemas

The government has made it clear that schools should remain open and we are committed to this. We have implemented a number of new measures to ensure everyone in the school community is as protected as possible, both from a health perspective and an academic perspective. These measures include:

- staggered break and lunches to avoid large queues and contact
- toilets open all day so students can wash their hands as necessary
- staggered exit from class to try and avoid congestion on corridors
- assemblies have been suspended until further notice
- all trips and fixtures have been postponed until further notice
- soap and sanitisers in toilets and sanitiser in canteen areas where possible
- posters around school reminding students of safe hygiene
- All year 11 and year 13 students have been provided with hard copies of revision materials
- By the end of this week all students in years 7 to 11 will have access to Century Tech, an artificial intelligence platform which provides tutorials, tasks and support for English, Maths and Science, as well as a range of other subjects
- We have identified students with underlying health conditions who will be given passes to leave class early to avoid congestion on the corridors



## **Self-Isolation**

In accordance with the latest guidance, students who are experiencing a 'new, continuous' cough or high temperature should self-isolate for 14 days. We will contact you if your child presents any symptoms in school and ask you to collect them. The guidance states:

**'if you live with others and you or one of them have symptoms of coronavirus, then all household members must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill'**

## **Staff Absence**

We have contingency plans in place should a large number of teaching staff be absent from school in the coming weeks. These include a range of measures to ensure that continuity of our educational provision while priority will understandably be given to those students facing external public examinations. We may also have to review our lunch and break provision should a number of catering staff be unable to attend work. This situation is monitored on a daily basis.

## **Public Examinations**

We understand how anxious students and families must be about imminent examinations and how the current situation may impact. The advice currently is for students to prepare as normal. The examination regulator Ofqual state:

**'We continue to work closely with exam boards, other regulators and the Department for Education and we have met to plan for a range of scenarios, as the public would expect. Our overriding priorities are fairness to students this summer and keeping disruption to a minimum.**

**It is still many weeks until exams start and we will issue updated advice if necessary, giving schools and colleges as much notice as possible.'**

## **Y 10 Parents' Evening Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March**

This event will be postponed until further notice. We will look to rearrange this at the earliest possible convenience. We apologise for any disruption this may cause. If you wish to discuss your child's progress then please do not hesitate to contact Mr Friend, Progress Leader for year 10.

## **Public Transport**

We are aware of the latest guidance on the use of public transport and the number of students who use this to get to and from school. We are currently reviewing this and more information may follow on this matter in the coming days.

We will continue to keep you updated as information, advice and guidance changes.

Yours sincerely,

Joe Mangan