



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,

I hope you and your loved ones are all safe and well. Thank you all for your continued support during these very unusual times. The students have been outstanding in their approach to the new ways of working and we are coming through these difficulties together but I fear there may be more challenging times ahead in the coming weeks. In the words of Catherine McCauley, we will continually strive to be "good today and better tomorrow."

Self-Isolation

The systems we have in place have resulted in us being able to minimise the number of students and staff who have come into close contact with anyone who has tested positive. It is important that, when we do ask people to self-isolate, they do so to reduce the risk of the virus spreading. The guidance on who should get a test for the virus and when can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

For parents who do have to self-isolate and are unable to work, Sefton have a support scheme which can provide a one-off payment of £500. Details can be found at:

<https://www.sefton.gov.uk/covid-19-in-sefton/covid-19-support/test-and-trace-support-payment-scheme.aspx>

Blended Learning

In school we have adapted our internal structures so we now have a team of people developing and monitoring our remote learning opportunities should students have to self-isolate. This includes live lessons, pre-recorded lessons, live interaction with staff as well as PowerPoints, workbooks and online resources. We are using Show My Homework and Microsoft Teams. Students have been given instructions on how to access these resources and parent guides have also been shared and are available on our website. It is imperative that students follow their timetable and engage with the work while they are at home, particularly if it is a live lesson. We understand that not every household will have access to the internet or a spare electronic device. Please let us know if this is the case and we will help where possible and prepare alternative resources so no learning is lost.

Trains

We are aware that the trains will be reduced to every half hour from Monday 2nd November. We have liaised with Merseyrail who will be putting on a special service for Maricourt students at 15.31 which will operate between Maghull and Sandhills. This service will run until further notice but may be subject to change on a daily basis. We are thankful to Merseyrail and will monitor the situation closely. If the service proves too unreliable, we may have to temporarily adjust our school day so students can catch the 15.15 service. Those students who normally catch the 15.46 service are not affected. We will, of course, keep you updated on any developments.





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Equipment

It is important that students come ready for learning each day as equipment cannot be shared. They must have their own pen, pencil, ruler and calculator, as well as any specialist equipment they will need for that day. Under the present circumstances, a face covering can also be considered as part of their equipment. This will be needed in communal areas and also on public transport to and from school. Students may wear a face covering in class if they wish.

We encourage students to bring a suitable bag into school each day. Bags must be big enough to fit a folder in. Small handbags which do not meet this standard are not permitted.

Uniform

We have raised the standards of uniform this year and training shoes and canvas shoes are not allowed. I am glad to say that the vast majority of our students are complying with the footwear rules and are wearing plain black shoes which can be fully polished and do not have a logo. I would like to thank all the parents who have been in touch to express their support for the new rules. We do not allow jewellery and students are not allowed to use their mobile phone while on the school premises. We expect all students to be in full school uniform every day.

Pastoral Support

Over the period of lockdown and since returning to school, we have collated lots of information which is helping us identify areas of support for students and we have already held a number of sessions for those seen as most in need. We will ensure that all students have individual pastoral meetings and continue to collect information as we are conscious this is an ever-changing situation. Please feel free to contact Form Tutors or Progress Leaders if you are aware of any challenges your child is facing and we will work with you to offer as much support as we can.

We hope you all have a safe and enjoyable half term. Please follow the guidance for local restrictions which can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-covid-alert-levels-what-you-need-to-know>

Stay safe and God bless.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Mangan,

Headteacher.

