



ST WILFRID'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

Principal: Miss C Huddleston BA PGCE MBA

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3 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

As half term approaches, I would like to start by thanking you for your continued support. I am very aware of how difficult it is to balance work, homelife and keeping your family safe during this period of lockdown. I hope that you are finding that the remote learning which we are providing for our students, is allowing them to complete work with the support of their teachers. Feedback so far has been very positive regarding the blend of live teaching and recorded lessons. The introduction of a morning Tutor Teams meeting for students has been particularly successful; the number of students needing a gentle nudge to log on and start working is now very low. Your support in ensuring your child is ready to learn is crucial and your efforts do not go unnoticed, so thank you. Colleagues are currently exploring further ways in which we can share with you your child's engagement in each lesson, to enable rapid intervention for those struggling to work remotely.

You may be aware that 1-7 February 2021 is Children's Mental Health Week. Colleagues have collated and shared resources to support our students; these can be found on Firefly under the PODs section or by clicking the wellbeing icon on Wilf's Weekly Plus. If you have any concerns about your child's mental health and well-being, please do not hesitate to contact, Mrs J Foster (KS3), Mrs J Roberts (KS4) or Mrs A Watson (KS5) by calling the Academy on 01254 604000 and asking to speak to the relevant member of staff.

Equally, should you have any issues about your child's remote learning provision please email Mrs Coomber KCoomber@saintwilfrids.com.

I also write to share with you a number of key pieces of information.

February Half Term Arrangements Monday 15 February 2021 – Friday 19 February 2021 inclusive

- **The Academy will be closed to all students** including those who are the children of critical workers and other students who have been accessing provision from 3.20pm on Friday 12 February 2021. It will re-open for these groups of **students only** at 8.20am Monday 22 February 2021.
- **Remote Learning** for students studying from home will end at 3.20pm on Friday 12 February. It will restart at 8.40am on Monday 22 February 2021.
- **Free School Meals Support**
Please be advised that Free School Meal vouchers will not be provided for any of the half term and summer holidays, as per government policy. If you need support getting food during the half-term break, please visit: <https://www.blackburn.gov.uk/coronavirus/bwd-help-hub-residents>. The Blackburn with Darwen Help Hub is there to support the local community. This may be linked with accessing food and other essential supplies, or to help people get through these challenging times. You can call the Hub on 01254 588111 if you prefer to speak to someone directly.
- **Notification of COVID-19 positive cases**
It is a requirement that schools continue to support the test and trace process during the first part of the half term holiday. This means that staff will be working to identify close contacts of students (where they have been attending) who test positive for COVID-19. If your child develops symptoms between the evening of Friday 12 February 2021 and 5pm Monday 15 February 2021, and tests positive for coronavirus please let the Academy know. To notify the Academy of a **positive case** please call 01254 604703 between 9.00am and 3.00pm. This line will be open from 9.00am Saturday 13 February until 3.00pm Tuesday 16 February.

*Lord direct us to **live** life to the full*

You will be asked to give the following details to the person taking the call:

- Child's Full Name
- Date of Birth
- Date COVID-19 symptoms first appeared
- Date of the COVID-19 test
- The last date your child attended the Academy
- How your child travels to the Academy e.g. bus (state the Service Number), car, walk or cycle (including who they travel with).
- A list of friends that your child spends their time with at break and at lunch

Testing for COVID-19 Advice from PHE, Blackburn with Darwen

A new warning about the need to book a coronavirus test even if you don't have the three classic symptoms of the disease has been issued by Professor D Harrison, Director of Public Health, Blackburn with Darwen. He advises booking a test if your child has any of the following symptoms: **diarrhoea, a persistent headache, fever and chills, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, and nausea or vomiting.**

Asymptomatic testing

There have been important updates to the asymptomatic testing of students in schools and colleges.

Further information about both of these updates is available on the Academy website in the coronavirus section.

Academy uniform

The Academy has always had high expectations of its students, including their smart presentation. For this reason, I am seeking your full support in relation to uniform standards. When on site, all students must wear the full uniform in line with the uniform policy. They may also wear a **plain, navy or black** jumper or sweatshirt during this period of colder weather. Hooded tops are not to be worn in the Academy. Students must wear appropriate school shoes, namely, plain black, flat-heeled, substantial leather shoes (no significant branding/advertising). Students should **not** wear suede or canvas shoes. Boots are not acceptable and students must only wear trainers on the day on which they have PE. Trainers are not allowed at any other time. There should be **no jewellery**, including piercings, rings and bracelets. If you are struggling to purchase appropriate footwear, please get in touch with either Mr Fagan, or Mr Lewis, so that we can provide the necessary support in accessing appropriate shoes.

Finally, as we remain in a national lockdown, it is vitally important that students remain at home during the holiday period and that they only leave home as necessary, and for one of the reasons stated in the [lockdown guidance](#). This will help reduce the spread of coronavirus through the community and every student must play their part in this.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family well and I trust that you all remain safe over the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely,



Miss C Huddleston
Principal