



Holy Family Catholic School & Sixth Form

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Letter to Parents Summer 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Summer holiday

School closes for the Summer holiday today. It has been a long and difficult academic year and I want to praise the staff and the students for their resilience and dedication during what has been an unprecedented series of challenges. The overwhelming majority of our students have tried their best and shown great fortitude in keeping up with their studies.

Publication of GCSE/A level/Btec grades

Grades for students will be published at the following times. School staff will be available to distribute the results and support students with guidance about their future choices.

- Tuesday 10th August 8.30am A level and Level 3 Btec results available from school
- Thursday 12th August 9.00am GCSE and level 2 Btec results available from school
- Thursday 12th August - Yr 11 enrolment to sixth form begins
- Friday 13th August Yr 11 enrolment to sixth form continues

Covid testing at the start of the new academic year

You will be aware that the government is requiring schools to test students twice on their return to school after the summer break. Attached to this letter is some important information about the date and time when your child will need to attend schools for this test. The vast majority of parents/carers gave permission for lateral flow testing before the return to school on 8th March after the spring lockdown. These permissions remain in operation. If you did not then give permission but now wish to do so then you can email me at a.stone@holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk and your child will be able to be tested.

The covid testing schedule

The return to school test dates and times can be found at the end of this letter in the appendix. Please ensure your child attends at the correct time. All testing will take place on the Walthamstow House site (lower site). Students will have their first tests on either Wednesday 1st September or Thursday 2nd September as per the schedule at the end of this letter. Please read this carefully.

ASPIRE TO THE HOLY FAMILY WAY

Start of year induction arrangements

Yr 7 students ONLY will attend school for their induction day on Friday 3rd September, having been tested the previous day. ALL other yeargroups have their first induction day on Monday 6th September.

The new academic year

Our vision for the school and our aims for next year are all based around 'getting back to normal'. By this we mean being able to teach students really well in face to face lessons, being able to have a full range of liturgical activities and retreats in place for every yeargroup and being able to run a full programme of extra-curricular activities including, I very much hope, competitive sports fixtures against other schools. We want all students to be engaged with the extra-curricular programme and to really participate fully in the life of the school.

We want to get back to basics, to teaching really well, ensuring every student is engaged and happy and making sure that we set high expectations for everyone and aspire to be the best version of ourselves. That applies as much to staff as it does to students.

Highlights of the summer term

Despite the challenges of covid it has been a busy and enjoyable summer term. I was especially pleased that we are able to run sports day albeit in a different format to the usual whole school event. The students enjoyed it and there was some excellent competition and good sportsmanship shown.

It was also great to see Yr 7 so engaged in their mini-retreats and our thanks to the young people of Walsingham House for running these for us. We were also able to have a Leavers Mass for both Yr 11 and Yr 13 and our thanks to Canon Niall for celebrating these masses with us.

We also did some really good work with the students on relationships and appropriate behaviour and on careers education which have been very well received. We want to ensure that all our young people behave appropriately towards each other and also that they start to think about their career choices and take advantage of the careers guidance which the school is able to offer.

School uniform

Thank you for your support with the school uniform. Standards are very high and students look extremely well-presented. Looking smart gives us confidence and reflects well on our school community. If your son/daughter has had an item of uniform missing or that needs replacing please replace it during the holiday so that everyone comes back to school in full uniform. There will be no tolerance of deviation from the uniform code in September.

Hair styles and jewellery

Similarly please ensure any ear piercings are done at the start of the holiday so that they are healed by the time we come back and likewise that hairstyles fit in with the school guidelines for the start of the autumn term. We don't want to start the year with needless confrontations over jewellery and hair.

Time off during term time

A reminder that family holidays must not be booked outside of the school holidays. We have very few problems with this and I thank parents for being so supportive of the school. We have been asked, along with all schools in the Borough, to follow the Borough guidelines very closely in this regard and we have also been asked to issue fixed penalty notices to parents who do not comply with this. This is something I am keen to avoid but the rules are clear. Application forms for any absence requests can be found in the school office.

Improving year on year

We want everyone connected with Holy Family to be proud of our school and we want to continue to offer a better and better all round education year on year. If you have feedback, good or bad, I am always happy to receive it and if you wish to speak to me in person the Headteacher's Surgery is available every Tuesday afternoon from 4pm to 5pm. If ever I am not available then one of my senior colleagues substitutes for me. We do, of course, have a complaints procedure which can be found on our website but we always like to try to resolve any issues informally and swiftly by meeting and discussing the concern.

Staff moving on

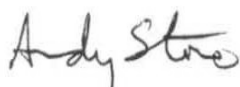
Each summer some staff move on from Holy Family, whether to retire, for promotion or through relocation elsewhere in the country. This year we are saying goodbye to Mr O'Neill who for many years was the deputy headteacher on the lower site and who has most recently been teaching RE and geography part-time. We also say goodbye to Mr Leigh who has been our senior site care officer for many years and wish him a long and happy retirement. Other teachers who are leaving us this year are Dr Rose and Ms Patel in English, Ms La Borde in Science and Ms Hayward, our Learning Resource Centre manager on the lower site. We wish them all well in the future and thank them for their service to our school.

Thank you

Thank you to our staff, governors and to you our parents/carers for your excellent support of the school and our community. The school is truly a family and that is what makes it such a great place to work and study.

It is a privilege to lead our school community and I, and all our staff, take great delight in all the many achievements of our young people. We hope for a good rest for you and your families over the summer and that we can return to a more 'normal' new academic year in September.

Yours sincerely



Dr Andy Stone
Headteacher

Appendix One

Week One				
Date	Time	Year Group	Tutor Group	Test Number
Wednesday 01/09/21	10:00	Year 9	9A, 9E, 9I	Test 1
	10:30	Year 9	9IG, 9p, 9R	Test 1
	11:00	Year 9	9S	Test 1
	11:30	Year 10	10A, 10E, 10EL	Test 1
	12:00	Year 10	10I, 10P, 10R	Test 1
	12:30	Year 10	10RI, 10S	Test 1
	14:30	Year 11	11A, 11An, 11E	Test 1
	15:00	Year 11	11I, 11P, 11PH	Test 1
	15:30	Year 11	11R, 11S	Test 1

Thursday 02/09/21	09:30	Year 7	7A, 7An,	Test 1
	10:00	Year 7	7E, 7I	Test 1
	10:30	Year 7	7P, 7R	Test 1
	11:00	Year 7	7S	Test 1
	11:30	Year 8	8A, 8E, 8I	Test 1
	12:00	Year 8	8P, 8R	Test 1
	12:30	Year 8	8S, 8St	Test 1
	14:00	Year 12	12A, 12S, 12St	Test 1
	14:30	Year 12	12P, 12I,	Test 1
	15:00	Year 12	12R, 12E	Test 1
	15:30	Year 13	13A, 13S, 13R	Test 1
	16:00	Year 13	13I, 13R, 13E	Test 1

Week Two				
Date	Time	Year Group	Tutor Group	Test Number
Monday 06/09/21	09:00	Year 9	9A, 9E, 9I	Test 2
	09:30	Year 9	9IG, 9p, 9R	Test 2
	10:00	Year 9	9S	Test 2
	10:30	Year 10	10A, 10E, 10EL	Test 2
	11:00	Year 10	10I, 10P, 10R	Test 2
	11:30	Year 10	10RI, 10S	Test 2
	12:00	Year 11	11A, 11An, 11E	Test 2
	12:30	Year 11	11I, 11P, 11PH	Test 2
	13:00	Year 11	11R, 11S	Test 2
	14:15	Year 8	8A, 8E, 8I	Test 2
	14:45	Year 8	8P, 8R, 8S	Test 2
	15:15	Year 8	8St	Test 2

Tuesday 07/09/21	09:00	Year 7	7A, 7An, 7E	Test 2
	09:30	Year 7	7I, 7P	Test 2
	10:00	Year 7	7R, 7S	Test 2
	11:30	Year 12	12A, 12S, 12St	Test 2
	12:00	Year 12	12P, 12I,	Test 2
	12:30	Year 12	12R, 12E	Test 2
	14:00	Year 13	13A, 13S, 13R	Test 2
	14:30	Year 13	13I, 13R, 13E	Test 2