



Holy Family Catholic School & Sixth Form

Headteacher: Dr. A. Stone BA Hons (Cantab) NPQH



Walthamstow House Site

1 Shernhall Street, London E17 3EA

Mr P Murphy BSc Hons
Head of Lower School

Tel/Fax: 020 8520 0482 / 4658

Web: www.holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk

Wiseman House Site

30-34 Shernhall Street, London E17 9RT

Mrs A Klitou BA Hons
Head of Upper School

Tel/Fax: 020 8520 3587 / 3594

Email: office@holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk

Letter to Parents September 3rd 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Reopening

It's good to be back at Holy Family for the start of the new academic year. The staff term began on Wednesday 1st September when we all attended the morning parish mass at OLSG Church concelebrated by Fr Niall and Fr Joseph. We are optimistic that we will have a safe, active and successful academic year and that we will not experience the disruption that covid has caused us over the past 18 months.

Thank you to all parents who supported the schools with the lateral flow testing programme. This has gone very well and gives greater confidence that we are keeping control of the virus. These tests continue next week once students return to school.

There are some important changes to the expectations and regulations on schools and covid which are summarised below:

- Anyone who tests positive must stay away from school and self-isolate for ten days
- Schools are no longer required to keep students in bubbles
- If a person tests positive then their close student contacts do NOT have to go home and self-isolate provided those contacts are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- Similarly, adults who have been double jabbed will not have to self-isolate if they come into contact with a positive case
- Instead close contacts should take a PCR test and providing that this is negative they can continue attending school or work.
- There is no requirement to wear face coverings but we are permitting staff and students to wear one if they wish

Covid has not, however, gone away. There remains a relatively high level of cases in the local community. Vaccination has been a gamechanger and I am pleased to see that many of our sixth formers are taking up the opportunity to be vaccinated. This is the best way to protect yourself, your family and the wider community. We are also asking everyone to continue with twice weekly lateral flow testing at home.

Exam results

Teacher Assessed grades were published earlier in August. I am pleased to report that no grades were changed by the exam boards and that our student outcomes were excellent reflecting their hard work and determination of our students and our staff. Almost 80 percent of our Yr 11 students achieved the pass standards at GCSE in both maths and English and at A level 68% of grades were A*-B grades. A record number

ASPIRE TO THE HOLY FAMILY WAY



of sixth form students are going off to university to colleges up and down the land including Cambridge. We shall publish more details of these outcomes next week in Family Matters.

Sixth Form enrolment

Sixth Form enrolment took place during the holiday period too and we are delighted to report that there will be a record number of students - well over 300 - in our sixth form. This reflects the satisfaction of our young people with their education up to Yr 11 and their confidence that our staff will support them to excel in their post-16 studies.

Summer School for Yr 7 Transition

Thanks to all colleagues who spent a week of the summer holidays working with our new Yr 7 students. There was an excellent level of attendance and we were very impressed with the children who conducted themselves and participated extremely well.

Flood damage

Amidst all this positive news we have, unfortunately, suffered quite considerable flood damage to parts of both sites. This occurred during the torrential downpours at the end of July which affected Walthamstow. Our lower site hall and music room were both flooded irreparably damaging the floor in each room. The drama studio on the upper site also suffered severe flood damage at the same time. Repairs are being carried out to these areas of the school.

The new academic year

Our vision for the school and our aims for the coming 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.

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 you have any financial difficulty in purchasing uniform please get in touch with me, in confidence, at a.stone@hollyfamily.waltham.sch.uk

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. Parents' Surgery will commence again on Thursday 16th September 2021.

Thank you

Thank you in advance for your support this year and we look forward to doing our best for you child/ren.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andy Stone".

Dr Andy Stone
Headteacher