

St. Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy

General school information for the re-opening of schools during the covid-19 outbreak from Monday June 15th – Thursday 16th July 2020 – summary information – Y10 PARENTS.

1. This information relates to the covid-19 public health emergency dating from March 2020 within the UK and the government's request for the phased re-opening of schools from 1st June 2020. Within the secondary sector the government has requested that all Y10 and Y12 students have contact with their teachers prior to the summer holidays. St. Anthony's is due to break for the annual summer holiday on Thursday 16th July 2020. These arrangements therefore relate to the period from Monday 1st June – Thursday 16th July 2020.
2. It is assumed that from September 2020 different arrangements will be in place, appropriate to the national situation with regard to covid-19 at that time.
3. You will be invited to send your daughter to school on particular days in a separate letter which will be sent within the next few days. Unfortunately, it is not possible to accommodate 420 Y10 and Y12 students at the same time, five days a week, and also maintain physical distancing.
4. Please read the following as arrangements are very different to what our girls have been used to. Your daughter will receive a student specific copy of this information too.

The key methods of limiting disease transmission according to the World Health Organisation (WHO) are:

- hand hygiene;
- respiratory etiquette;
- environmental cleaning and disinfectant;
- physical distancing.

We have linked our summary information directly to the four key methods of disease transmission to provide clear understanding to all stakeholders why these arrangements have been put in place:

A. HAND HYGIENE and the use of school "bubble" areas and associated routines to limit disease transmission.

Handwashing upon entry, at regular timetabled points during the day and the use of "bubble areas" to limit disease transmission opportunities.

- Regular handwashing is paramount.
- All staff and students must wash their hands upon entry to the site.
- Floors, within buildings, not in use on any particular day must not be accessed by staff and students.
- The government handwashing guidelines must be followed.
- These guidelines are visible in all student toilet facilities and visible reminders are apparent in signage in school.

- The government hand washing guidelines stipulate that you should wash your hands when you get to school/work or arrive home; after you blow your nose, cough or sneeze and before you eat or handle food. You should wash your hands for 20 seconds, using soap and water or hand sanitiser. The guidance states, “washing hands regularly is the single most important thing that an individual can do”.
- Following hand washing upon entry students will be directed to their “bubble area”. Student “bubble area” will be maintained throughout their time in school June/July 2020 i.e. your daughter will be with the same staff members and the same small group of students. It is impossible to maintain social distancing and have all your daughter’s subject teachers with her. A subject teacher may normally teach 200-250 students from Y7-Y13 during each week. Consequently, the teachers who are assigned to your daughter’s “bubble” are unlikely to be your daughter’s usual teachers.
- Induction to the “bubble area” style of school organisation, will be given in detail on the first day of student attendance and in summary form at the start of every day that your daughter is present in school.
- The “bubbles” have been created to ensure physical distancing of 2 metres and a maximum of nine students within every teaching area.
- Exercise opportunities, as well as break and lunch time, will be undertaken in the “bubble area” and it’s associated outdoor space.
- The “bubble” will also have, staff directed, timetabled student handwashing opportunities throughout the day.
- The students in the “bubble” will have lunch delivered to the room in a cool bag. Students should bring their own bottle of water for journeys to and from school.
- The usual water fountains are not available in school during this period, upon advice from public health.
- The “bubble” will have assigned toilet facilities and an assigned outdoor area.
- There will be no physical contact between the teaching staff and the students in different “bubble areas”. This is for their own protection i.e. to limit opportunities for disease transmission to the best of our ability given student cohort, staffing, premises and site constraints.
- The government advice is that Y10 and Y12 have some, “contact with their teachers before the summer holidays”.
- It is expected that students continue all on-line learning programmes during the times they are not present in school.
- The outdoor areas will be marked to ensure physical distancing during break and lunch times and each bubble will be assigned its own outdoor space with physical distancing in place.
- Any student infringing strict physical distancing will be subject to the usual behaviour management protocols.
- If your daughter is attending the key worker bubble then she will remain with this group

B. RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE and associated school routines to limit disease transmission.

Respiratory etiquette.

- All staff and students must carry their own personal supply of tissues in a cloth tote bag and tissues will be available in the individual student pack on each desk and observe the government advice i.e. *“You should cough or sneeze into tissues before binning them”*. Please use the well-known public health slogan, *“catch it, kill it, bin it”*.
- Tissues are not available as they normally would be at Reception areas or any other part of school as these areas are not accessed by students and staff in “bubble” areas.
- In an emergency, where no tissue is available the government advice is to sneeze into the crook of your arm. Clearly this is far from ideal, hence the advice that all staff and students carry their own personal supply of tissues and use those provided.
- Lidded bins can be found across the school site for the disposal of all used tissues.

Personal protection equipment (PPE).

- The government advice is that students do not need to wear PPE in school e.g. face masks.
- The government has stated that masks/face coverings will be required on public transport.
- The government advice is that staff do not need to wear PPE in school.
- Some staff may choose to wear PPE.
- The wearing of PPE by students, or staff, in school is purely voluntary.
- PPE is available for staff “first aiders” managing any medical emergency.
- All staff will be trained in “donning” and “doffing” PPE as every staff member may potentially face a medical emergency.

C. ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANING and disinfectant and associated cleaning routines.

We will continue to undertake:

The cleaning of school facilities during the day and deep cleaning of high-risk areas after the school.

- Door handles, bannisters and similar high-risk areas are currently prioritised in daily cleaning routines by the academy cleaning team and have been since pre-lockdown.
- The academy cleaning team will be cleaning high-risk areas in school throughout the day.
- Cleaning teams will also be undertaking before school and after school cleaning routines, as normal and advice from an external provider of cleaning for NHS trusts has been sought as well as advice from the local authority health and safety teams of two local authorities.

The promotion wearing clean clothes to school and the washing of school clothes upon immediate return home by students and staff.

- Students will wear their school PE kit to attend school during this period and have their hair tied back, as usual. Styles such as plaits or buns are advised as the best method of avoiding disease transmission, if your daughter has long hair.
- The “no student nail varnish and no student jewellery” rules continue to apply. Adherence to these rules provides an additional method of avoiding disease transmission, and girls will be familiar with these rules which operate within medical settings. Staff are also requested to protect themselves and others by following the same practice. Germs can more readily hide under rings and varnished nails.
- Mobile phones are another potential source of infection and should be kept for personal emergency use linked to journeys to and from school. The usual mobile phone rules apply in school i.e. no use during the school day except, with staff permission, in emergencies. Mobile phones should be regularly wiped clean each day at home in line with manufacturer’s instructions.
- The details of the full school PE kit can be found within the student planner and also on the website.
- The reason for the choice of PE kit, as the designated uniform, during this period is as follows:
 1. students will be undertaking some physical activity during the course of the school day;
 2. PE kit can be much more readily be cleaned frequently, and more quickly, compared to many items within the traditional school uniform.

Limiting the equipment that students will use whilst in school.

- Students must not bring any books, pencils or any other equipment to school.
- An individual set of new equipment, for the personal use of a particular student, will be placed on each student’s assigned desk within their “bubble” area.
- Students will also have a named file, for their personal use, on their assigned desk in their “bubble area”.
- The named file must remain on the student’s personal desk within their “bubble area”.
- Files and equipment must not be shared between students or between staff and students.
- Work in named files will not be assessed during any lesson/activity, but could be available for inspection by teachers at a much later date.
- Bags can also be vehicles for the transmission of disease. It is suggested all girls bring a fabric tote bag/day sack (if cycling) that can be readily washed, as required, with uniform.
- Medical advice is that covid-19 virus can live on surfaces for 72 hours.
- The student fabric tote bag is purely to carry a small number of personal items e.g. tissues, hand sanitizer/wipes, sanitary protection (if appropriate), a mobile phone, money, bus pass, umbrella etc.
- There will be no practical lessons in school during this period i.e. science, technology, art etc. It is not possible to maintain social isolation so the decision has been made at school and trust level that practical subjects cannot take place during this period

and these subjects will continue June-July via remote the learning which has been in place for all students to enable them to work from home during the period from March 2020.

D. Physical/social distancing and associated routines in school.

The journey to school.

- Government advice is not to travel by public transport unless absolutely necessary. Students are advised to walk or cycle to school, where at all possible.
- Any student cycling to school may leave their cycle in the academy cycle shed and will be directed to this shed by staff upon arrival. A cycle lock will be required which can be carried by cyclists in a fabric day sack that can be washed, or similar, rather than a fabric tote bag.
- If you do travel to school by public transport please ensure you observe physical distancing, follow government advice regarding wearing a face covering and perhaps use public transport for only a limited part of your journey and walk part of journey e.g. either at the start or the finish of your route to limit your exposure to the virus upon public transport. If you wear a face covering on public transport it must be removed upon entry to school and disposed of in a lidded bin (available across the site).
- Some students will travel to school by car with a parent/carer. Our advice is to drop your daughter off at a point away from Thornhill Terrace, which is a cul de sac, and allow her to walk the last 10-20 minutes to school as part of her daily hour of exercise. This will enable physical/social distancing to more readily operate on Thornhill Terrace.
- Students are expected to be meticulous in obeying social/physical distancing on Thornhill Terrace and take particular care to stand aside/make way for local residents who may be undertaking exercise, exercising dogs etc. on the Terrace when they arrive or exit.

Maintaining strict physical/social distancing at all times.

In secondary school all students and adults are required to maintain the required two metre physical/social distancing.

- Physical/social distancing is paramount.
- Physical distancing will be apparent from floor marking within the buildings and marking of external areas.
- There will be reminders via signage within school buildings and on the external entrance to school for the whole community.
- It is particularly important that strict physical/social distancing is observed from the minute students leave home and that no groups of students and/or parents congregate either en-route to school, or on Thornhill Terrace at the start or end of the school day.

The entrance to and exit from school (students).

- Students will enter the site at their prescribed time. You will be informed of arrival and departure time, as well as appointed days, in a separate letter.
- Entrance will be in a staged manner i.e. groups of students will arrive at ten minute intervals and supervised by staff meeting them at the gate.
- Staff will be on duty to ensure both staged and physical /social distancing upon entry. Your daughter will be asked to stand upon a marked cross i.e. in an area of the school yard with the other students from her “bubble”, but physically distanced from them. Each time she enters school she will use the same marked cross.
- The student gate for Y10 will be the usual entrance to gate to school adjacent to the PE block.
- The student gate for Y12 will be Gabriel Gate.
- Physical distancing will be required at both the entrance to school and at all times within the school site.
- All students will undertake supervised handwashing upon entering the building.
- They will then be directed to the relevant handwashing facilities for their “bubble” i.e. small group of students by the staff on duty.

All academy reception areas are closed and we are not receiving visitors.

- All queries in writing please to enquiries@st-anthonys-academy.com ,as usual.
- Westburn and Gabriel reception areas are closed to staff and students for their protection.

Ill students and the collection students who may become ill whilst in school.

- Please do not send your daughter to school if she is ill in the first instance. This is paramount.
- Please remember that if anyone becomes ill with covid-19 symptoms during the school day she will be isolated and isolation rules apply to the whole household unit.
- If a student becomes ill, whilst in school, our Reception staff will contact parent/carer and request that they collect their daughter immediately from the designated school gate.
- Ill students will be immediately removed from class by a staff member and placed in an isolation room with a staff member located outside the room.
- The designated school gate for collection of ill Y10 students is the gate adjacent to Somerleyton House (Somerleyton House is the tudor-style Victorian house situated on Thornhill Terrace to the left of Westburn House when you are facing the school).
- The designated school gate for collection of ill Y12 students is the gate adjacent to Gabriel House (Gabriel House is situated on Thornholme Road adjacent to Oaklea Convent of Mercy).

Any queries to enquiries@st-anthonys-academy.com