

# Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

Stakes Hill Road  
Waterlooville  
Hampshire  
PO7 7BW

☎ 023 9225 9214

☎ 023 9223 0317

🌐 [www.oaklandscatholicschool.org](http://www.oaklandscatholicschool.org)

✉ [oaklands@oaklandscatholicschool.org](mailto:oaklands@oaklandscatholicschool.org)



**Headteacher:** Matthew Quinn B.Ed (Hons), M.A., NPQH

Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)  
Registered in England and Wales, Company No 07721932

Our Ref: MQ/SM

25 February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

We have been expecting changes to school guidance for a few weeks. On Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February, the Prime Minister announced some significant revisions to national guidance, which inevitably have implications for all schools. COVID-19 continues to be a virus that we learn to live with; the imperative remains to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education.

## The key changes are as follows:

### Face coverings in secondary school classrooms

Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors in classrooms or communal areas. I appreciate that there are some families where individuals are clinically extremely vulnerable, a risk remains that the virus could be caught at school and transmitted at home. If this describes your family situation, please get in contact with the school.

### Tracing close contacts and isolation

Public health advice for people with COVID-19 and their contacts changed from 24<sup>th</sup> February. Contacts are no longer required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests, and contact tracing has ended. If your child comes into contact with an individual who has COVID symptoms, they should continue to attend school as normal.

### Asymptomatic testing

From 21<sup>st</sup> February, staff and pupils in mainstream secondary schools will not be expected to continue taking part in regular asymptomatic testing and should follow asymptomatic testing advice for the general population. Further information is available in the [NHS get tested for COVID-19 guidance](#).

At the end of last term we issued students with sufficient LFD testing kits to last into the first week. Whilst these are available it would seem sensible and precautionary for students to take an LFD test on Sunday before returning to school and again on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March in order to reduce the spreading of COVID picked up during the half term holiday.

## Other control measures

The guidance related to other control measures has not changed:

- Frequent and thorough hand cleaning should now be regular practice; we will continue to offer hand sanitiser in high touch areas, for example in the canteen.
- The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important.
- Classrooms will continue to be well ventilated.
- We will continue to follow Public Health England guidance.

## COVID Vaccinations

These will take place on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February and Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March in the Gym. Mr Bamford has published the timetable on each year group 'Teams'. Things should run to time, but if more nurses come than expected, then the vaccinations could progress more quickly; this could result in students scheduled for the vaccine on Tuesday brought forward to Monday.

As such, students are asked to wear their PE top (for easy access to their upper arm) on both days.

We sent several reminders of the deadline for signing up for the vaccinations, which has now passed. Students will not receive a vaccination unless the online consent forms were completed. If your child misses their vaccination in school, please email the NHS team for further information about the catch-up programme - [missedvaccination@southernhealth.nhs.uk](mailto:missedvaccination@southernhealth.nhs.uk)

## Uniform

You may remember in my letter before the half term break I mentioned issues related to uniform, in particular jewellery and hair colourings. Please can you ensure your child attends school on Monday with the correct uniform and attire. Like you I want to avoid any sanctions at the start of the half term.

## Equipment

Please can you ensure that your child starts the new half term with all the necessary equipment for learning.

Thank you, again, for your prayerful support for the school. It has never been more valuable. Your children have been remarkable throughout the pandemic. They deserve to be commended for their resilience and willingness to contribute to continued success.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Quinn  
**Headteacher**