



ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
Roman Catholic School
in the Diocese of Northampton
Headteacher: Mr C Stapleton MA, NPQH



“The glory of God is
a human being fully alive!”

4th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well and in good spirits. I write to keep you up to date with what's happening over the next couple of weeks and also some important information around what we've been asked to do that will affect your son/daughter.

BTEC and Cambridge National External Exams and Centre Assessed Grades (PPE/Mocks)

BTEC and Cambridge National exams for a selected number of Year 10,11,12 and 13 students will take place as planned over the period 6th – 18th January. I've attached the calendar containing the external BTEC and Cambridge National exams including the revised 2nd set of Centre Assessed Grades (PPE/Mocks). BTEC and Cambridge National exams are external exams and as such these exams contribute directly towards the students' final grade. Should there be a reason why your son/daughter cannot sit these exams (for example your son/daughter is currently in isolation over the period of the exam) then you must provide evidence of the reason otherwise the exam will be classed by the exam regulators as a 'missed attempt'.

Testing for Covid in Schools

The government is introducing a National Testing Programme for Covid in schools this week. What this means for us is that should a student test positive for Covid then, whereas in the past we immediately sent those in close proximity home to isolate for 10-14 days, we now have the testing kits which can provide test results in 30 minutes. So, instead of sending home all students in close proximity to the identified case, we would only send home those students who tested positively for a rapid test (taken at school each day over the following week). All students with a negative test could remain in school. The aim of this rapid test programme is to stop students unnecessarily losing out on time in school. We will need your permission to be able to allow the students to self-administer the tests on site under the supervision of adults at the school. Students without parental permission will have to be sent home to isolate for the required length of time from the positive test results of the individual with whom they were in close proximity. As such we're attaching details of the GDPR implications in the Privacy Notice. Further to this we'll send you a consent form via your mobile phones today which provides the option of consent. You'll need to have read the attached letter before consenting and further information can be found by clicking here https://www.gov.uk/guidance/asymptomatic-testing-in-schools-and-colleges?utm_source=3a7efecf-86a9-4f9a-8edc-88bc92039a75&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

Pupil Premium and Free School Meals

We've decided that pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals and/or Pupil Premium will receive Tesco vouchers for the period when they are unable to attend school due to government restrictions. Pupils will shortly receive an email to their school email address which contains a code and link to the vouchers.

In the meantime, I'd like to wish you all a happy New Year.

Yours sincerely

Ciran Stapleton
Head Teacher

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