



St. Joseph's School and Sixth Form

Becoming fully human in Christ

11th September 2020

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to all our year groups!

On Monday we welcome *all year groups* back to school for the first time since March. Thank you for your continued patience and support. These are difficult times to manage and we have made very good use of the two weeks of transition that began this term. We have worked very hard to provide a safer learning environment and we have reflected carefully on our practices. Accordingly, I would like to share a few important points with you.

1. Structures

We will continue to keep year groups separate. So far this has been highly successful. Each year group is located in a different zone in school, not only for lessons but also for break and lunch times. Only exceptionally are students taught outside of their zone. We will also continue with our 100-minute lessons which are proving very effective. Three lessons per day and the allocations of zones have helped to reduce movement around the school significantly.

2. Face coverings

Having had over half of the school population in this past week, we have now had plenty of opportunity to consider the levels of risk in communal areas. Accordingly, from Monday all students and staff must wear face coverings* when walking around anywhere inside the school building, including when visiting the toilets. Face coverings do not have to be worn in class. On Monday we expect to take delivery of a large quantity of face coverings - re-useable ones that can be washed - which we will distribute to all students. To start the day, however, please ensure that your child has at least one to bring to school.

3. Transport

It is already the case that students must wear face coverings on buses.* This is a rule that has been decided by NPTCBC. I have received reports that a small number of students are not complying with this rule, removing their face coverings once the bus has left the school. This must change. I am obliged to work cooperatively with the local authority in relation to school transport and I would not want any of our students to have their transportation to school removed for refusing to wear a face covering.

Returning to school this year is very different from any previous years and I anticipate that it will continue to be very different for some time to come. By all of us connected with St Joseph's taking our responsibilities seriously and working together cooperatively, we can make the very most of our school experience, even if there are various restrictions. Our first two weeks have gone extremely well and I am optimistic for the weeks ahead.

Yours faithfully,

**Some students and staff may be exempt from wearing face coverings. If you think that your son or daughter should be considered exempt, please get in touch.*

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