



# St Joseph's Roman Catholic High School

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**Headteacher:** Mr T McCabe | **Deputy Headteachers:** Mrs N Yorke Robinson, Mrs J Morgan | **Chair of Governors:** Mrs P Jones  
**Registered Charity Number:** 1075795 | **Facebook/Twitter:** StJosephsRCHS

9th November 2020

## Instruction for Y11 to isolate until Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November

Dear Parents and Carers of Y11

Yesterday we wrote to you to tell you that a Year 11 student had tested positive for coronavirus. We know that students learn best in school and we wanted as many students as possible in school wherever it is safe to do so. To this end, we went through the track and trace process to find students who we could safely say had not had any contact. Unfortunately, since some of the communications were sent out, we have now had further positive cases reported. After another process of track and trace we have come to the reluctant decision that we are going to have to concede and ask all Y11 to isolate. **Your child can only return on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November.** We are so sorry that this situation can't be helped.

Another situation that is currently beyond our control is the fact that the government have said that GCSEs will go ahead next year with a delay of a few weeks (and a possible lowered grade boundary if the press can be believed.) We are also told that there is a 'Plan B' to be announced late autumn. I know from talking to our Y11 that the fact a Plan B might be needed is suggesting uncertainty and uncertainty causes anxiety. We want our students to be in the best possible position in terms of GCSE achievement, so we are covering the syllabus on line as usual in the coming weeks. Our Pre-public exams will have to go ahead on the 25<sup>th</sup> November as planned. We know that students may not feel as confident for these as they might in normal circumstances, but we will take this into consideration and it will help inform our teaching moving forward and show us what we need to prioritise. If centre assessed grades are used again, we need to have evidence to show the potential that our students have. This is a good reason for our Y11 to give their best in every piece of work that is set.

I understand that the news of latest COVID cases might be concerning, but please remember that we have been taking measures to minimise the risk of possible infection spread. All desks are sanitised before use and each room undergoes a thorough deep clean each evening. A welfare cleaner sanitises door handles/toilets facilities etc. during the school day. Asking your child to isolate is as a precaution to prevent any community transmission through school and any major disruption for a larger number of students and families.

Please see the following guidance for isolation: [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance](#) The guidance states: *If you have been informed that your child is a possible contact of a person who has had a positive test result for coronavirus (COVID-19), medical advice is clear: your child must immediately self-isolate at home for 14 days from the date of their last contact with them. There is no requirement for other members of your household to self-isolate unless anyone in your household starts to develop symptoms.* Your child must not go to school and must not leave the home. **Please ensure that your child is not out in the community. This would undermine our efforts to avoid community transmission.**

If you or your child begin to show the above symptoms you must follow the national guidance. For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. However, if you develop symptoms you must self-isolate at home and arrange to have a test to see if you have COVID-19. Visit [NHS.UK](https://www.nhs.uk) to arrange or contact NHS 119 via telephone if you do not have internet access. **Please inform the school of any positive results by emailing [safeguarding@st-josephs.bolton.sch.uk](mailto:safeguarding@st-josephs.bolton.sch.uk).** During this time of isolation your child will be able to access their learning on line simply by following this link on the school website <https://stjosephsbolton.org.uk/remote-learning/>. Students who have forgotten their login information can access this by emailing [rmunifyrequest@st-josephs.bolton.sch.uk](mailto:rmunifyrequest@st-josephs.bolton.sch.uk),



Isolating is an act of selflessness. I know from personal experience that this can be a frustrating and anxious time. Please explain to your child that although it appears that we can do little to stop the impact of coronavirus, isolating is one small action we can take to prevent further spread of the infection. Work will continue to be set online whilst your child is at home. Please contact Mrs Weall if you have any concerns about this process. Thank you for your ongoing support in this very challenging time. Please remember the families who are affected in your prayers.

Yours Sincerely

Mr T McCabe (Headteacher)

