22nd February 2021

**Dear Parents and Carers**

**Return to School from Monday 8th March.** We said we would keep you up to speed with school opening and tonight the Prime Minister announced that schools can start to reopen fully on Monday 8th March, so as promised here is an update. We are told that school should make lateral flow testing available for those consenting to their use and we have plans in place to cater for this. You will receive an invitation to book your child for a LFD test at St Anthony’s, prior to their return. To do this, you will need to have your login details for SchoolCloud (the parents eve app) handy and make sure that you have completed the online consent (a separate form for each child, but no need to re do if you have already completed for a key worker place.) <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=sHAoOFeTq0ONO_0gvTFzyi7Eux8QJv5CpxLFK9r_r2RUN1E5REVJUDdSUjJYM0s1TUdPMVg2WlQ5Sy4u>. Year 9 will be issued with SchoolCloud logins in due course but other year groups should have their logins from the recent parent evenings. The idea is that a day will be put aside for each year group to be tested so that they can return the following school day. Appointment times and social distancing will be vital to make this safe and effective.

**Testing and return:** We are told to prioritise those year groups closest to GCSE and envisage that we will bring Year 11 back in first on the 8th March followed by Year 10 on the Tuesday and then the younger students (Year 7 Wed, ,Year 8 Thurs & Year 9 Friday) so that we can be fully open to all year groups by the 12th March. We will give you exact details and arrangements for their testing in a separate letter. As you can imagine testing over 1000 people, three times in the space of two weeks will be logistically challenging, however students will be able to return following their first negative test. Students will then be tested twice more and then given home test kits to test themselves twice a week following this. Our risk assessment will be updated with the latest guidance and we will only continue to open more widely if the medical and scientific advice suggests that it is still safe to do so. In the meantime, we ask that your child continues to focus on their online learning and endeavours to return up to date with their studies.

**Face masks in classrooms:** We are told to ask students and staff to use face coverings not just on corridors but also in classrooms and other teaching spaces, unless wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, for example in PE lessons, or for those who are exempt from wearing a face covering as set out in Government guidance. Please make sure that your child is equipped with a mask.

**School Attendance:** School attendance will be mandatory for all students once a year group has been tested. The usual rules and duties around school attendance are in place from 8th March (including mandatory attendance).

**In other news…**

This Lent we are aiming to raise as much money as possible for St Joseph's penny at the same time as keeping fit and helping out the local community.

If you haven’t already seen it check out the details of this initiative by watching our short video...

<https://youtu.be/h4jyvJ3omQE>

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| [https://i.ytimg.com/vi/h4jyvJ3omQE/maxresdefault.jpg](https://youtu.be/h4jyvJ3omQE) | [St Joseph's Penny film](https://youtu.be/h4jyvJ3omQE)  youtu.be |

Students will be asked to record their miles each week on the following Form (Each student should fill in the form 6 times in total including zero entries)

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=sHAoOFeTq0ONO_0gvTFzygaAbxmZJAFCtHoyyEOMuKpUQTdSWFU2RUdUQjlTNVZTMTRSQ0EwMFdGRy4u>

We hope that you and your child will help us to promote the cause.  Caritas use funds for children, mums and dads across the Diocese of Salford who need help. Not everyone has the things they need to make a happy home, but Caritas, through the St Joseph’s Penny Appeal, reaches out to those vulnerable children and families in our communities. They offer support in lots of different ways – from food parcels to counselling sessions and providing young mums and their babies somewhere safe to live. By being active we are hoping that our young people will receive a mental health boost as well as raise money for those in need. Sponsorship can be sent in via the **Just Giving**link below or via Parent Pay.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stjosephspenny?utm_source=Sharethis&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=stjosephspenny&utm_campaign=pfp-email&utm_term=5d9736cc874a40c98c51884a62a3879e>.

Many thanks for all your continued support and patience at this time. We are optimistic that brighter more hopeful times are ahead!

Take Care and God Bless!

Mr T McCabe

Headteacher