

Our Lady's Catholic High School

A National Teaching School

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Friday, 28 August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We are looking forward to welcoming your child back for the start of the new academic year. In June we welcomed back Year 10 pupils and that went very smoothly. Pupils followed all of the new requirements with ease. While there were a few nervous faces at the start of the first day, they went home with smiles on their faces at the end of the day and spoke in very reassuring tones about their experience of returning. As promised in my July letter I am now writing to you to remind you of the information I shared with you then and to add some additional points.

There has been considerable work undertaken around the school in preparation for our return. This includes new walkways outside the building, one way systems, sanitising facilities in every room, a new bike storage facility and signage. This has all been completed to support the new procedures we have in place to create a safe school environment for everyone. All this will be explained to your child on their first day in a positive and helpful way.

Keeping our school community safe is a shared responsibility and everyone must play their part; staff, pupils and families. May I refer you to my letter which was sent in July, which is on the school website www.olchs.lancs.sch.uk/covid-19. On this page you will also find our detailed risk assessment completed using the Local Authority guidance.

A reminder of our planned opening days:

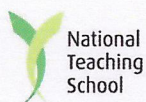
- Thursday, 3 September – Year 7 pupils only (all day, along with several Year 11 prefect helpers)
- Friday, 4 September – Year 7, 10 and 11 pupils only
- Monday, 7 September – All pupils

This means the first day of return to school for Year 8 and 9 pupils will be Monday, 7 September.

Pupils should not arrive at school before 8.30am and when they arrive on the school premises they should go straight to their designated Year area which is outlined below:

- Year 7 - Year 7 Quad
- Year 8 - Bottom Yard, nearest school
- Year 9 - Bottom Yard, furthest from school
- Year 10 - Restaurant Quad
- Year 11 - Common Room and Orangery

An additional aspect which has just been announced by the Government is regarding face masks. As I write Preston is in an area of 'local lockdown' and so therefore at the moment, pupils and staff will need to wear a face mask in the corridors between lesson changeover. They will not need to wear a mask in communal areas as they will only be in their year group bubble or when outside travelling between lessons. Pupils must provide their own face mask which they must keep with them at all times. This face mask must be appropriate for use in our school: no prominent logos, written messages or graphics – essentially a simple face mask. School will decide whether a face mask is appropriate or




not so please use good sense in your choice. Bandanas and scarves etc are not acceptable. The face mask is a piece of safety equipment; it is not a fashion statement.

Accompanying this update is a letter from Mrs McArdle about school transport. Please read this and if it affects your child, complete the action requested.

Nothing comes before the safety of everyone in our school community. I believe strongly that, with the measures in place and by working together, we will have a very happy, safe and productive start to the year.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Ranson', with a horizontal line underneath.

Nigel Ranson
Headteacher