



**St Antony's
Roman Catholic School**

ASPIRE + BELIEVE + ACHIEVE

4th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you and your families are well and starting to look forward to some form of Christmas celebrations. Thank you for all the donations for our Christmas Dinner Project. Our fundraising target (https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/st-antonys?utm_term=7b8R2NB7w) is almost met and my office is full of chocolates! We are so pleased to be able to support those in need this year. If you know of anyone who would welcome the delivery of a Christmas dinner, with all the trimmings, please contact school. We still have some available.

If your child is eligible for free school meals (FSM) and absent due to isolation, the Trafford approach is to provide food parcels from "The Bread and Butter Thing" which is a registered food charity. If your child is isolating and you wish to receive a food parcel, which will consist of two bags of food, one of fresh fruit and vegetables and one of cupboard goods such as pasta, sauces, cereals and bread, please contact the school. Contact before 1pm should ensure parcels ready for collection the next school day.

School Christmas dinner will take place on Wednesday 16th December. Due to COVID controls in place in the canteen we will, on that day, only be offering Christmas dinner and a packed lunch option. Full Christmas dinner is charged at £2.30 or is free to those on FSM. On this day students are encouraged to wear a Christmas jumper or other form of Christmas accessory and we are asking for a voluntary donation of £1 for Caritas (the official charity of the diocese of Salford).

In order to reduce the amount of cash moving around school, and therefore increasing the chance of transmission, we would be grateful if parents can strive to use Parent Pay whenever possible.

School will finish on Friday 18th December at approximately 12:45pm. This will be a non-uniform day, again with a voluntary donation of £1 for Caritas.

I am pleased to report again that student cases within school remain low with only two additional cases (Yr8 and Yr10) since my last letter a fortnight ago. Thank you for doing all you can outside of school to ensure the health and safety of your own families and, as a result, the health and safety, and continued education, of others.

I would like to again update you on the areas below, as I have done on a fortnightly basis, in order to keep you fully informed. This letter will also be published openly on our website and is being sent to our governors and trustees.

School reopening	<i>Students have settled fully into a new, slightly amended, school life and we are pleased to be operating in such a settled and productive learning environment.</i>
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Headteacher: Mrs F Wright



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Attendance	<i>Attendance remains high for all groups within school and significantly above national figures. Normal systems are in operation for poor attendance (non-COVID related) and a number of formal warning letters have been issued. If your child is poorly with symptoms which do not match those of COVID, please send them into school. We will contact you if they are so poorly that they cannot access their learning.</i>
Coverage of the curriculum	<i>We continue to deliver all of the curriculum to all students. We will have our first PHSE day of the year on Tuesday 15th December with a focus on careers supported by Salford Foundation. PHSE days will continue into the Spring term with a programme from the organisation Ten Ten, Life to the Full, will teach Relationship, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) within the context of a Christian understanding of human sexuality rooted in the wisdom and teaching of the Catholic Church.</i>
Remote learning	<i>The staff make great efforts to ensure that they set high quality work which will prevent absent students from falling behind. This work is not always completed and it is essential that students do so. If your child is isolating and cannot access the work set (via their school email and Microsoft Teams) for any reason, please contact the school immediately. A technical issue we are aware of is emails from staff going into junk folders. Please check these. Our first virtual Parents' Evening took place last week with Year 10 and overall went well with only a few technical hitches. We aim to have these ironed out by our next one in the new year.</i>
Mental health and wellbeing	<i>This term has seen a growing need for support for some of our students with their mental health and wellbeing. Whilst the large majority of students continue to flourish and remain unaffected, others have found the extended lockdown challenging. Staff have been wonderful in their support for those affected and appropriate interventions have been put in place for those that require them. We encourage parents to look at the school social media channels for guidance in supporting your child. In addition, student assemblies have detailed available support and we continue to remain vigilant for signs that individuals are struggling. Please do not hesitate to contact school if you feel your child may benefit from support.</i>

Thank you for your continued support in these challenging times. Please remember to follow both the school's and Public Health guidance to keep everyone learning safely.

Have a restful and safe Tier 3 weekend.

With kind regards,

Mrs Fiona Wright – Headteacher