



**St Antony's
Roman Catholic School**

ASPIRE + BELIEVE + ACHIEVE

8th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope this letter finds you and your families well in this very difficult time of national lockdown. So much has happened since I wrote last. Indeed, so much has happened in the last few days and I will try and give you an overview of the current school situation here. I have also produced an accompanying video version.

I attended meetings with Trafford Public Health on Tuesday and Thursday of this week. We are clearly in a very concerning situation regarding the virus. Trafford's transmission figures are currently the highest in GM and Urmston's are the fastest growing. Secondary school students are a key category within these figures. It is essential that we follow the relevant guidance for the safety and wellbeing of all.

I would like to again update you on the areas below, as I have done on a regular 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.

Structure of school day	<i>The majority of students are now working at home with an In School Group of approximately 75 students in year group bubbles. The school day, both at school and at home runs from 9am with the start of P1. P2 starts at 10am, break is at 11am, P3 at 11:30am, lunchtime at 12:30pm, P4 at 1pm and P5 at 2pm. Students should aim to keep to their timetables, completing the work set by their teacher for a particular lesson.</i>
Attendance	<i>Lesson attendance processes are being developed. KS4 attendance will be monitored through their attendance at 'live' lessons. Engagement of all students at both key stages will be monitored by teachers starting next week and weekly feedback will be provided for parents. Further details to follow.</i>
Coverage of the curriculum	<i>Heads of Departments and their teams have reviewed and revised their curriculum plans to ensure that learning is most suitable for this time of restricted attendance at school.</i>
Remote learning	<i>The majority of students are now learning at home and teachers are working hard to provide a high quality experience for them. The following principle is currently in place: lessons at KS4 should be 'live' unless there is good reason for them not to be i.e. teacher on rota in school, childcare commitments at home. If a KS4 lesson is not to be 'live' that day, this will be communicated to students clearly via their Teams calendar. Lessons at KS3 will not be 'live' as standard a task will be set in the Team as an Assignment. However, KS3 students should check their calendar each day, as some staff may run a 'live' lesson.</i>

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Headteacher: Mrs F Wright



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	<p><i>Understandably, we have had, and continue to have, some teething problems including technical issues with students with double barrelled names or names including apostrophes. It is clear that the internet is having difficulty coping with the pressure it is currently under which is leading to loss of connectivity both in school and in homes. We expect such connectivity problems to continue. To support parents in working with MS Teams, Mr Fearn will be delivering a training session via Zoom on Tuesday 12th January at 10am. If you would like to participate in this, please email k.rothwell@st-antonys.com by 2pm on Monday 11th January and an invitation will be sent to your inbox.</i></p> <p><i>A table of stationery is available at the entrance to the school along with sanitary products. If you require anything, please come down and take what is needed. If there is something specific you need, please email the relevant teacher or your form tutor. A list of teacher email addresses can be found on the school's Remote Learning page of the website along with other useful information.</i></p> <p><i>Please see the accompanying document for how remote learning is currently working at St Antony's.</i></p>
Mental health and wellbeing	<p><i>National lockdown for the third time, and school being closed for most for the second time, along with GCSE exams being cancelled, will clearly have an impact on anxiety levels and mental health. School will continue to signpost students and parents to useful resources and materials via our social media platforms. Please follow us on these.</i></p>

The feedback we have received so far this week from parents has been very useful and is always gratefully received. I know you appreciate what a challenging situation this is for the staff at school (and teaching from their own homes with their own childcare commitments) and we appreciate how challenging it is for you at home, often working and trying to supervise remote learning at the same time. Next Friday, at 4pm, I would like to invite parents/carers to an online Q&A session with me. If you would like to attend, please email k.rothwell@st-antonys.com by 2pm on Monday and an invitation will be sent to your inbox. If you know in advance what question/s you would like to ask, please include this/these also.

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.

Stay at home, protect the NHS and save lives.

With kind regards,

Mrs Fiona Wright – Headteacher



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Video message from Sister Linda and Sister Anna

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/wvd5626ujfdhe2u/St%20Antony%20School%20Greetings.mp4?dl=0>



The sisters would like to encourage parents and pupils to say this prayer daily and to create a prayer corner at home where you can place Holy items and things that you treasure.

Prayers for the families

Holy Family of Nazareth, community of the love of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, ideal image of every Christian family, to you we commend our families.

Open the hearts of every family to Faith, to receiving the Word of God, to Christian witness, so that they may become a source of new and holy vocations.

Guide the minds of the parents so that with caring love, wise concern and tender respect, they may be sure guides of their children with regard to spiritual and eternal values.

Awaken in the spirit of youth a right conscience and a free will so that, growing in "wisdom and grace" they may generously accept the grace of God's call.

Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that we all, in contemplation and imitation of your way of life of zealous prayer, willing obedience, dignified poverty and virginal purity, be prepared to fulfill the will of God and to tactfully and wisely accompany those under us who are called to a closer following of Jesus Christ, "who gave Himself for us" Amen.

With our prayers, Sr Linda and Sr Anna