



**St Antony's
Roman Catholic School**

ASPIRE + BELIEVE + ACHIEVE

12th March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you and your families are well and starting to look forward to the gradual lowering of restrictions over the coming months. I met with the Trafford Public Health team, representatives from the Trafford Education Department and other Headteachers yesterday and am pleased to report that Trafford remain at the bottom within Greater Manchester with regards to transmission but the message was that we must not be complacent. We must continue, both in and out of school, to take the appropriate precautions and minimise social mixing. Please bear this in mind, especially with Mother's Day this Sunday.

The full return to school has been very successful. We have tested all students (for whom we have consent) at least once, many twice and some three times already. Once a child has been tested three times in school, they are able to take a home testing kit and continue with twice weekly tests at home. These tests have now arrived at school and the distribution of these will begin next week. Students who have completed three tests in school will be provided with 2 packs of tests with 3 tests in each. Full instructions will be included with the kits and should be followed with regard to the sharing of results. The email address for the sharing of results with school is CovidTesting@st-antonys.com. **If a child tests positive, please call school immediately or email f.wright@st-antonys.com.** If you do not want your child to be sent home with such test kits, please contact school ASAP. If you have not yet consented to your child being tested in school and would like to do so, the form can be accessed [here](#).

We had no student cases within the 'In School' group over the lockdown period, and there have been no cases this week. 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 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.

School reopening	<i>Students have settled fully yet again into the rhythms and routines of school. Our high expectations with regards to uniform and other aspects of appearance remain the same as always and we thank you in advance for your support with this.</i>
Attendance	<i>Attendance figures during the first week back are extremely high and we look forward to this continuing.</i>
Coverage of the curriculum	<i>We continue to deliver all of the curriculum to all students. We will have our second PHSE day of the year on Tuesday 30th March 2021 with a programme</i>

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Headteacher: Mrs F Wright



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	<i>from the organisation Ten Ten, Life to the Full, teaching 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>Thank you for your support with Remote Learning over the lockdown period. Please see extract below for feedback from students this week.</i>
Mental health and wellbeing	<i>Our priority this week has been to get the children settled safely and happily back into school life. All students spoken to during the Pupil Voice exercise were very happy to be back in the building; having missed friends and the social side of school massively. All students spoken with feel very safe being back in the building because there are very clear routines and safety measures. Our social media platforms, and Instagram in particular, continue to be used for mental health and wellbeing information and the new website page in relation to this will be going live in the next few weeks.</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.

We will be communicating with Year 9 parents and students next week about the Options process.

Have a restful and safe weekend.

With kind regards,

Mrs Fiona Wright – Headteacher

In the view of students, Lockdown 2021 provided much more structured and challenging curriculum than Lockdown 2020. All subjects provided engaging and meaningful content. The vast majority of students said they participated in much more work this lockdown than last time and feel they achieved more progress. For KS4 students the majority said that remote learning was much more effective in 2021, that they had made better progress in this lockdown and they valued having conversations with teachers in live lessons, being guided through tasks with broken down instructions/time limits and having better and clearer explanations. Students liked the discipline of 'having to attend' a live lesson – because it motivated them to get out of bed and following a live lesson they felt a sense of accomplishment. Students do still feel that having some 'non live' learning and independent tasks allowed them autonomy to manage their day, to get exercise and that it supported managing their mental health.

Areas for improvement include feedback and marking. Whole year group 'live' lessons were also not felt to be productive. This feedback will be taken into consideration as we move forward.