



St Antony's Roman Catholic School

ASPIRE + BELIEVE + ACHIEVE

30th April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you and your families continue to be well, have managed to enjoy some of this recent glorious weather and are looking forward to the upcoming long Bank Holiday weekend. It's been four weeks since my last letter and we have had a very busy and exciting first two weeks of term. Due to the growth of the school, we are delighted to have been able to appoint a number of new teachers who will join us in September. We are particularly pleased to be expanding our languages offer with the addition of Spanish, which will form part of the KS3 curriculum for Years 7 and 8.

You will be very aware, I'm sure, of all the talk in the media about catch up and recovery. We have been delighted with the attitude and efforts of the students as they returned last month and we wish to build on this by bringing forward the new academic year to start in June after we return from the half term break. This will impact positively on all year groups but especially on the current Year 9s who will start then with their option choices. There will also be some changes to the finish times of the school day with KS3 classes finishing at 3:10pm and KS4 at 3:15pm.

Testing continues to play a crucial role in the fight against coronavirus. Students should continue to test themselves twice a week and report their results. The email address for the sharing of results with school is CovidTesting@st-antonyss.com. If a child tests positive, please call school immediately or email f.wright@st-antonyss.com. The DfE have produced a blog on [why reporting your test result is as important as taking a test](#), featuring further guidance and common questions. This also includes details on financial support available to parents whose children are asked to self-isolate after contact with a positive case.

We have had one positive case in Year 11 since our return, and another in Year 10. The Year 10 student tested positive in a home test (which was later confirmed with a PCR test) and was able to isolate himself before he came into contact with any other student, thus minimising the impact on both the health and education of others. Thank you all for your continued support with this.

As the weather improves and the restrictions continue to reduce, we are looking forward to restarting some of our extra-curricular activities. A popular wellbeing activity is our walks through Urmston meadows and along the River Mersey. We hope to be able to reintroduce these soon so, if you haven't already given permission for your child to participate (or aren't sure if you have or not), please email c.mortell@st-antonyss.com to do so. It's a wonderful way to spend an hour or so.

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.

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Headteacher: Mrs F Wright



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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. A reminder that false eyelashes are not allowed and neither are any piercings, ears or noses.</i>
Attendance	<i>Attendance figures remain very high and we look forward to this continuing. Monitoring periods will be starting for a number of students whose absence is currently of concern and letters will follow shortly for those students. If you would like to discuss your child's attendance at any time, please contact Mrs Pauline Kelly, p.kelly@st-antonyss.com, or your child's Head of Year.</i>
Coverage of the curriculum	<i>We continue to deliver all of the curriculum to all students. Our PHSE Day last month was very successful and we are looking forward to timetabled PHSE lessons starting next half term for all year groups.</i>
Remote learning	<i>All Year 11s who have been isolating as a result of the Year 11 positive case have returned to school today to continue with formal assessments and the last few weeks of learning and their school life at St Antony's. The up-to-date schedule of Year 11 assessments can be found on the school website under Students then Examinations.</i>
Mental health and wellbeing	<i>The new area of the website focused on wellbeing is up and running and can be accessed here. Please take a look.</i>

The new homework system for Year 10 has been successfully introduced and the students have stepped up to the demands of it admirably. Teething problems have been addressed. It will be expanded into other year groups over the coming weeks and will be fully in place for all in the new academic year.

Year 7 Parents Evening took place last night via the SchoolCloud online system. Any parental feedback from Year 7 parents would be gratefully received.

Over the coming weeks, as Year 11 continue to complete their assessments as part of the evidence basket for their GCSEs, there will be lots of administration for them to complete and information shared. We will update the Examinations section of the Learning tab on the school website regularly so that you are fully informed of each week's latest GCSE-related news for Year 11.

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.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Fiona Wright'.

Mrs Fiona Wright – Headteacher