



**St Antony's
Roman Catholic School**

ASPIRE + BELIEVE + ACHIEVE

14th May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. It's been two weeks since my last letter and two weeks until the next half term break. Next Monday brings with it a further reduction in restrictions including the national removal of the requirement for students to wear face masks in classrooms and communal areas. However, at a meeting of Trafford Heads yesterday, the advice from Trafford's Director of Public Health and the Public Health team is that we continue with the current systems in place at school. Whilst cases in Trafford continue to fall, you will also be aware that new variants are having a significant impact on other areas of Greater Manchester. The safety of your children and St Antony's staff is of utmost importance and, with this in mind, we will continue to strongly encourage the wearing of face masks in school, particularly in communal areas such as the corridors and the canteen.

We are looking forward to starting our new academic year in June. To ensure that this is done so as efficiently as possible, school will be closing early for students on Friday 28th May 2021 at 12:30pm approximately. Lunch will not be provided that day, however students on free school meals can order a packed lunch with Mrs Gorman in the Canteen. All students should return to school at the later time of 10am on Monday 7th June 2021

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. Further tests will be distributed next week. 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. 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 no positive cases since my last letter. Thank you all for your continued support with the testing process and for keeping your family COVID safe inside and outside of school.

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	As stated in my last update letter, we will be moving to a new timetable after half term with all year groups effectively starting the next academic year. The pandemic has had a massive impact on the wellbeing and education of young people and the purpose of this move is to counteract some of this impact. In the first instance, KS3
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	classes will be finishing at 3:10pm and KS4 at 3:15pm, although consideration is being given to extending the school day in September.
Attendance	Attendance continues to be strong, above both Trafford and national figures. Some parents, however, will have received letters giving notice of our intention to move forward with monitoring periods and possible fines if the attendance of their child does not improve. Thank you to all those who ensure that their child is in school, learning.
Coverage of the curriculum	We continue to deliver all of the curriculum to all students. PHSE lessons will commence after half term on Fridays, delivered by form tutors. We are looking forward to expanding the enrichment element of the curriculum and this is beginning to happen with CCF recommencing and trips booked to both Manchester and London for Textiles and Art. I'm delighted to inform you that that we have taken receipt this week of a school minibus, which will enable us to further develop our extra-curricular provision. It was purchased with money from the School Fund (donations from parents etc) which was match-funded with a grant from the CCF. We are looking forward to using it once staff members are suitably trained!
Remote learning	We have a very small number of students who continue to learn remotely for COVID reasons. As we move forward we are looking to take all the positives from the use of technology during the 2021 lockdown and further develop learning, both in the classroom environment and at home.
Mental health and wellbeing	The new area of the website focused on wellbeing is up and running and can be accessed here . Please take a look.

Last week in assemblies, the students were told about The Big Ask. This is a national survey for young people that has been created by The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza. She's keen to hear from young people about the things that make them happy, that worry them and that they would like to see in the future. All of your child's answers will be confidential, and they don't have to answer any question if they do not want to. They will be used to inform the Government of the changes that children would like to see. The Big Ask survey can be found [here](#). Please encourage your child to complete it before the 19th May, if they haven't done so already.

Year 11 students have today received their own letter which outlines the remainder of their time at St Antony's and provides important information for both them and their parents. The website (Students, Examinations) continues to be updated weekly with information and support.

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,

Mrs Fiona Wright – Headteacher