



**St Antony's
Roman Catholic School**

ASPIRE + BELIEVE + ACHIEVE

16th July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

When I wrote to you this time last year, believing that the worst of the pandemic was over, little did we know what lay ahead of us! Hopefully now we can look forward to the next academic year with great optimism.

There have clearly been learning losses since March 2020 and, whilst we have not suffered from as many COVID cases as other Trafford schools, we are working hard to minimise these losses. One of our strategies for this is to provide all students with a Summer Learning Pack which have been shared on SMHW. This has been designed by the Heads of Department and their teams and provides links to lessons which will either consolidate learning from last year or help them prepare for what is to come. We really do want the students to enjoy their summer break, relaxing, having fun and spending time with friends and family. We do not expect or want students to be working for hours each and every day but please encourage them to use this resource to enable them to get off to a flying start in September. Another way in which all parents can support with their child's learning is to encourage them to read regularly and, even better, reading aloud with them together. Research has shown that this has a significant impact on literacy levels.

Next Monday brings with it many changes nationally from a COVID point of view. In school there will no longer be the requirement for students and staff to wear face coverings, although they are encouraged to continue with this until the end of term due to the rising cases in Trafford (4 cases in St Antony's this week). We will continue to encourage good hand hygiene and have the school well ventilated. Many of the positive in school changes that have come out of the pandemic will continue: staggered breaks and lunches, the one way system and separate entrances, which have all had a positive impact on behaviour and, therefore, learning.

Students will finish school next Wednesday (21st July 2021) at approximately 12:30pm. There will be no provision for lunch although students on FSM can buy something at breaktime if they wish. Students can wear non uniform for a charitable donation of £1.

As you will no doubt be aware, the current expectation is for schools to once again provide in-school testing in September. All students should be tested twice with 3 to 5 days in between each test. The proposed plan for return to school is as follows:

- Year 7 – Transition Day on Monday 6th September with first test on Thursday 9th. Test 2 on Wednesday 15th September.
- Year 8 - Return to school on Tuesday 7th September. Test 1 on Friday 10th and Test 2 on Tuesday 14th September.

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Headteacher: Mrs F Wright



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- Year 9 - Return to school on Tuesday 7th September. Test 1 on Tuesday 7th and Test 2 on Monday 13th September.
- Year 10 - Invited for Test 1 on Friday 3rd September, return to school on Tuesday 7th September with Test 2 on Wednesday 8th.
- Year 11 - Invited for Test 1 on Thursday 2nd September, Review Afternoon (invitations to follow) on Monday 6th September with full return to school on Tuesday 7th September. Test 2 on Monday 6th.

As we look forward to the next academic year we are excited about the benefits for our students of being part of the Emmaus Trust. I have met with our new CEO, Daniel Copley, on a number of occasions and am confident that we will have a very positive working relationship with both Daniel and the other Emmaus schools.

We are looking forward also to reviving the PTA next year and they will be in touch in September with details of a first meeting. You may have seen posts on our social media with some ways in which you can make an easy donation e.g. via Easyfundraising. Your support with the PTA in any way would be welcomed.

You may have also heard about #BeeWell which is a new programme led by the University of Manchester, the Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families, and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, which combines academic expertise with youth-led change to make the wellbeing of young people everybody's business. Designed by young people, #BeeWell will survey the wellbeing of pupils in secondary schools across Greater Manchester from Autumn 2021, for at least three years, and use the results, in partnership with schools, to deliver positive change in all our communities. St Antony's are taking part in this initiative. Further information can be found [here](#) along with an opt out consent form. Thank you in advance for your support. It can only benefit our students.

It's been an interesting year and I'm sure we are all looking forward to a good break over the next few weeks, students and staff alike. We are very excited for the new school year with the introduction of Spanish, a new enrichment period being included in the students' timetable and all students starting the day with a Reading Period (more details to be shared in September). For communication and health and safety purposes, it is essential that we have up-to-date phone numbers and email addresses for every parent so please make sure this is the case.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer break and, in the words of Father Kieren, get to waste some time with the ones you love and the ones who love you.

With kind regards,

Mrs Fiona Wright – Headteacher