



In all things faithful

13th September 2020

St Damian's RC Science College

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Headteacher

Mr S Logue BA (Hons), M.Ed., NPQH

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have been advised that there has been a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the school community.

As you would expect we undertook immediate action. We have carried out a full risk assessment and identified anyone who has been in close contact with the affected case. Furthermore, we promptly reported the positive case to the Local Health Protection Team [LHPT] who immediately carried out a full risk assessment in line with the LHPT guidance. The LHPT has advised that as the person had not had any close contact within the school during the 48 hours prior to their test and was not symptomatic, there is **no need to ask anyone within the school community to self-isolate**.

Due to the rising cases locally [and indeed nationally] it was probably inevitable that there would be a positive case at some time. The reality is that St Damian's, like every other place, is not 100% safe. That is impossible. But we are not complacent, we remain alert and are doing everything we can to ensure we remain COVID-19 secure. We have robust risk assessments in place and are taking all steps possible to minimise risk on a day to day basis.

I ask all parents to remain alert and act swiftly if someone becomes unwell, to minimise the transmission of the virus. The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of a new continuous cough and/or a high temperature and/or a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia). If your child, or anyone in your household, develops these symptoms, your whole household must remain at home and not go to work, school or public areas. You should arrange testing for the person who has developed symptoms. When the result is known, further advice will be available. Please ensure that you contact school to keep us informed.

Testing can be arranged by calling 119 or via the NHS website: www.nhs.uk/coronavirus

There are things we can all do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with becoming ill with COVID-19:

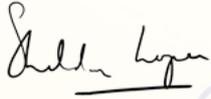
- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- maintain an appropriate social distance with non-household members of over 2 metres
- wear a face covering as requested in school and in communal places where it may be difficult to socially distance
- follow local measures in place as outlined by the national government
- remember: Hands, Face, Space

Further information is available at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus

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Finally, just to reassure all parents / carers that, whilst this may cause some anxiety, the safety of all, both pupils and staff, is my number one priority at this time. I am pleased to report that we took prompt action and that our internal procedures were tested and worked. Your child is expected to attend school at the usual time on Monday morning. School will continue to remain a calm and focused learning environment providing a first-class education for your child with strong pastoral care. I ask you to remind your child about the importance of following the personal safety and hygiene guidance given in school to ensure that they remain safe and well.

Yours sincerely



Mr Logue
Headteacher

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