



**St Cuthbert's
Catholic High School**
Live life in all its fullness

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31 December 2020

Dear parents/carers of ALL students

I hope you have had a safe and Happy Christmas.

As announced yesterday, the Government have announced that secondary schools will not return to the school building on 4th January 2021. However the 'school' is still open for Blended learning and as such ALL students will be expected to be completing all lessons set from 4th January.

As it currently stands:

- Week beginning 4th January: **Blended learning for all 5 year groups** ([a summary of the blended learning expectations can be found at the end of this letter](#)) – only children of critical workers (who cannot stay at home to study) and vulnerable students to attend the school building if parents wish them to.
- Week beginning 11th January: as above plus ALL Y11. Blended learning for Y7 – 10.
- Week beginning 18th January: ALL students return to the school building

Below is a summary of the Government announcement:

With case rates rising across the country, the government will now begin applying the contingency framework for education and childcare settings and push back the staggered return for secondary schools and colleges by one week.

Secondary schools and colleges will extend the staggered return of their students to give more time for the rollout of testing. This will help find asymptomatic cases and break chains of transmission, making it as safe as possible to return to face-to-face education.

- *during the first week of term, beginning on or just after 4 January, secondary schools and colleges will focus on the rollout of testing to help find asymptomatic cases. They will provide face-to-face education for vulnerable children and the [children of critical workers](#), and prioritise resources for remote education for exam year groups in line with what they would receive in class and to all other years as resources permit*
- *during the second week of term, beginning on 11 January, secondary schools and colleges will start their programme of testing, prioritising staff, those students in schools and colleges and the exam cohorts. Schools and colleges will be able to bring students back to face-to-face tuition as testing is rolled out. Remote education will be provided to all pupils this week prior to return to school or college*
- *all students will return to secondary schools and colleges for face-to-face education by 18 January*

Click here to view the full Government announcement: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schools-and-childcare-settings-return-in-january-2021/schools-and-childcare-settings-return-in-january-2021>

For Year 11 students: the mock exams will still be going ahead from 18th January 2021 and therefore all Y11 students should be preparing for their exams.

All students who fall into the vulnerable category and those whose parents are critical workers and CANNOT work at home should have informed us that they will be attending school. If you have not done so already can you please let us know ASAP by checking the box at the end of this letter.

There is a great deal of publicity about the testing of students and staff in schools from 4th January 2021. Staff and leaders have been working closely with the LA and DfE to ensure that this is done safely and effectively. More details will follow as we get them. Currently the plan is to start with Y11 students who have been possible contacts of any positive cases of Covid 19 over the Christmas break. It is envisaged that this will roll out further but we will continue to follow Government guidelines and advice.





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I want all students/parents and carers to be assured that we at St Cuthbert's continue to have the safety and wellbeing of all our young people, families and staff at the heart of what we do and that we are working tirelessly to ensure that everything is done in a measured and controlled way.

Obviously as St Helens has moved into Tier 3 from today it is essential that, in order to control the extent of the virus on our families and communities. Please refer to the National Guidelines <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tier-3-very-high-alert>

I know that this has been an extremely worrying and frustrating time for us all and I thank you as always for your support in working with us to ensure the best for our young people. I would like to thank all staff for their continued hard work at this challenging time.

I will of course continue to keep you informed as we get additional information. We are currently trying to ensure that those families entitled to Free School Meals get the appropriate vouchers for the week beginning 4th January.

Please refer to the school website for updated information about Blended learning and google classrooms to ensure that ALL students keep up-to-date with all the work from 4th January - <https://stcuthberts.com/school-life/student-resources/students-work-during-isolation/>

A reminder of the Blended Learning expectations for the 4th January:

Our blended learning can be found on our [school website](#) and all students have been shown how to access their lessons ([click here to view the presentation delivered to all students in class on 18th December](#)). [Click here to view this presentation in video format on our YouTube channel](#). **All students must have joined all google classrooms. They must be up, dressed and ready to learn by 8.30 for form time. They will join their form live meet for registration via the form code which has been sent to them. Students will then follow their timetables as normal from home via each subject google classroom. At the start of each lesson they need to join the subject live meeting and await instructions from their teacher. [Click here to view the codes for Form Tutor Google Meet](#).**

Wishing you all a peaceful and Happy New Year.

Stay safe and take care.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Catherine Twist
Headteacher

Reply slip – only complete this if you are sending your child to school from the 4th January as they are either vulnerable or you are critical worker and they cannot stay at home.

YES – my child [child's name] will be attending school from the 4th January 2021

