



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

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23rd March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As today marks a year since the first lockdown began, I wanted to write to you all to thank you, once again, for your continuous efforts and hard work, which has never faltered over the last 12 months, and talk to you about our next steps.

I hope you know by now that I am immensely proud to be Headteacher of St Cuthbert's and its students, and in times like these I couldn't be prouder of our whole community, who have risen to every challenge presented to them and continued to adapt to whatever came their way.

Cautious and carefully thought out, measured strategies have always been at the forefront of our plans and continue to be so. However, now we need to adapt the current arrangement as it no longer serves to help our student and staff wellbeing, or our students' experiences of school and us being able to look forward.

Therefore, from Monday 29th March, our young people will no longer be, solely, in their bubble zones.

We believe the proposal to let the students move around the school, in a controlled way, will alleviate some of the issues raised above and the pressures on us all.

It will also allow for many practical and creative subjects to use a wider range of resources and equipment once again, only adding to the fantastic education that our staff already provide for our young people on a daily basis.

Since the return to school on 8th March with the roll out of mass testing with our students, there has been one positive Lateral Flow Test, in over 2500 tests. As well as this, we are encouraged with the uptake from our school community on home testing. More regular testing is regarded as key to avoiding further national lockdowns and I urge you to use the community testing sites to have regular (twice weekly) tests for your families and to ensure that our young people continue to test at home with the kits provided.

In addition to the current cleaning, ventilation, face covering and other safety measures in place, from 29th March there will be a strict, one-way system for students and staff to follow in order to limit the contact of 'bubbles' moving around the school building. The students will use the same entrance and exit points with the exception of Y11 who will now use the student entrance next to the science block. Temperatures will continue to be taken on entry.

While we continue to take every precaution and remain vigilant against this virus, the significant decrease in cases for St Helens and the remarkable NHS vaccination programme in the local area, seeing more than half of people across the borough receiving their first dose, brings hope of better times to come.

We have every confidence that this is the best next step forward for our young people and our community.

We will do it and as ever, we will do it together.

As always, we are here to support you in whatever way we can. Please do get in touch if you have any more questions or queries, we'd be more than happy to help.

Yours faithfully

Mrs C Twist
Headteacher

