



St. Richard's Catholic College

A National Teaching School, a National Support School and a High Performing Specialist Science College



Ashdown Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex TN40 1SE. Tel: 01424 731070
Email: admin@strichardscc.com Web address: www.strichardscc.com

Principal: D. Cronin, N.P.Q.H., M.A., B.Ed.

1st October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you and your families are keeping well. I would just like to provide you with an update of how measures are going in school. The Risk Assessment has now been in place for one month. This week, the LMT and I reviewed its contents in consultation with staff and it can be viewed [here](#). There are minor changes colour-coded in red, particularly to the teaching of music and in relation to social distancing. The next review will take place before the start of term two.

Daily measures and controls

The majority of pupils are responding well to the change in timings/routines and are actively keeping themselves safe by wearing a face covering in communal areas, hand sanitising regularly and clearing down their work space after use. Such care has made a difference to the well-being of all. There are still, however, a minority who regularly arrive without a face covering or have to be reminded to wear the face covering in communal spaces. This is unacceptable and, from now on, there will be a consequence of an after-school detention for placing others at risk. As mentioned in my letter of 21st September, pupils must wear face coverings on public transport or risk a fine. Again, I am pleased to say that the majority of pupils are now doing this and there have been fewer complaints from members of the public.

Teaching and Learning

Whilst some time is being lost in Key Stage 3 due to the one-way system, the staff and I are very pleased with the focus and engagement in the classroom. On the whole, pupils are keen to learn and are ready to address lost learning. Independently, some pupils need to revisit topics from last year in order to consolidate their knowledge. Staff are using these first few weeks to assess pupils before issuing targets. These will be emailed in a separate letter just after the half-term holiday.

Homework is an issue for some pupils and therefore I ask all parents/carers to ensure you are monitoring homework efforts and habits via Edulink and also ensuring that mobile phones are switched off whilst homework is completed. It is a scientific fact that it takes 11 minutes to re-focus once you have read or listened to a message, allowing it to interrupt your learning or revision.

Year 11 should be revising for their mock exams which begin on October 12th 2020. Staff are supporting pupils with reminders of methods to revise and providing revisions lists, for example. The mock exam timetable can be found [here](#).

Diary Events

The following recorded events are now on the website:

- Ensuring Success at KS4 Evening for parents/carers – click [here](#) to view.
- Key Stage 3 (Years 8 and 9) Curriculum Evening – click [here](#) to view.

Next week the following will be added:

- Open Evening recorded event and speeches
- Road Show recorded event and speeches
- Year 10/11 Revision Evening on October 8th will go 'live' at 6.00pm with Educational Consultant, Michelle Miller.

For parents/carers with Year 6 pupils, there will be a special Admissions webpage on the school website containing lots of information about the school, as well as the recorded events. This will go 'live' next week.



Attendance

Attendance remains high, with fewer and fewer pupils having to self-isolate due to the symptoms of another family member. Work is provided for any pupil having to self-isolate, unless of course they are ill themselves. Most subjects are making this available on Google Classroom so please do remind your child to look there for the weekly work. Continue to follow DFE advice available [here](#) if you have concerns about Covid in relation to your son/daughter.

Parental Focus Groups (PFGs)

PFG meetings for term one are taking place on:

- Wednesday, 14th October at 9.15am – 10.30am
- Thursday, 15th October at 6.15pm – 7.30pm

Please email my PA at pa@strichardscc.com if you would like to attend a meeting virtually. The agenda will be sent out next week, and will include a review of school life, a presentation on PSHEe and a look at the priorities for Year Three of our College Improvement Plan. The meetings are informal and provide you with the opportunity to have any questions answered.

As term moves on at a pace, please can I ask you to ensure that your son/daughter carries as part of his/her essential equipment: tissues, a small sanitiser, a water bottle and enough writing equipment for them personally. There should be no sharing of equipment.

Newsletter No.2 will be published in two weeks' time and will, as always, be a celebration of school life.

Please do get in touch if you have any concerns.

Yours sincerely,



Miss D Cronin
Principal