



St Francis of Assisi Catholic College

27th August 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer

Full September opening

This period of challenge has meant much adjustment and change, but we are now at a point of readiness to welcome all students back to St. Francis of Assisi.

My amazing staff have worked hard to ensure social distancing, year group bubbles and hygiene measures are in place. On top of the H&S considerations, a rigorous curriculum plan for all students is ready to go when they return.

Start dates

Please note the relevant start date for the different year groups, before all students return together on Tuesday 8th September.

Date	To attend
Monday 31 st August (Bank holiday)	
Tuesday 1 st	Staff only
Wednesday 2 nd	Staff only
Thursday 3 rd	New Year 7 & 12
Friday 4 th	New Year 7, 8, 9, 13
Monday 7 th	New Year 7, 10, 11, 12
Tuesday 8 th	All

Symptoms

As a reminder, if a student has a new or continuous cough, a high temperature, or loss/ change of taste or smell then they should not come in to school. A test should be arranged as soon as possible and I ask that you inform school of the result. If a positive test is returned then isolation is necessary. Alongside Public Health England, the school has a process in place should there be a confirmed case or anyone presenting symptoms when in school. If your child is sick or needs to self-isolate, please report this to us by contacting Miss Elsmore, our Attendance Officer.

School measures

The school site will be open from 08:30 to students and the school day starts at 08:55. Students will be directed to an entrance specific to their year group and then will remain in year group bubbles for

Erdington Road, Aldridge, Walsall, WS9 0RN
tel: 01922 740300 fax: 01922 740330 www.stfrancis.cc postbox@stfrancis.cc



their time in school, including break and lunch time. Hand sanitiser is at every entrance and mounted to every classroom door and there is a programme of cleaning in place for when students exit a classroom.

Masks

There has been much debate about the wearing of masks in schools. I, and the Governing Body, are pleased that there is now some clarity, and below I will be very clear about how SFA will embrace face coverings.

- **All students and staff are encouraged (non-compulsory) to wear masks in corridors, the canteen/ bistro and when mass gathering inside e.g. a year group gathering in a hall when it is raining.**
- **Masks are optional when on the yard.**
- **Upon entering a classroom masks must be put away.**

This is an addition to our custom and practise and one that we must all face with maturity and responsibility. We will educate students regarding how to wear and sanitise after handling a mask, because masks must be worn responsibly, be fit for purpose and never used as a means to disrupt learning. Face coverings must also be appropriate, and should they be deemed unnecessarily intimidating or offensive in design we will swiftly intervene. I ask all parents/ carers to ensure that if masks are washable, then the recommended regularity of washing and replacement are adhered to.

This approach in school will be monitored and will be updated in line with any further Government or Public Health England guidance.

Culture

After this period of disruption, we will quickly reinstate the known and predictable structures and routines in school. With this in mind, I do expect students to attend in full school uniform in September. Where uniform is not correct it will be challenged and a swift resolution sought. Shoes remain shoes- not trainers, and I expect the school uniform to be worn correctly. Facial piercings are unacceptable in school and will be addressed swiftly.

Students are expected to come prepared to learn with their school bag and equipment. The responsibility to come prepared rests with the student and being ready to learn helps us reduce the need to borrow equipment and therefore reduce possible transmission.

Canteen

The canteen will reopen on Thursday 3rd of September with a cold food service of wraps, sandwiches or baguettes along with a side, dessert and drink. This will be pre-packaged and the service will be of a grab- and- go nature so a major reduction in any possible transmission. This will be at a set cost of £2.20 and ParentPay remains the payment system. I encourage all who would normally purchase from the canteen to return to doing so.

Reintegrating

Please find attached two documents shared by Walsall Local Authority that may help students and parents/carers prepare and develop new routines before returning to school.

If you have any concerns or you need any support from the school, please get in touch via Reception.

I am extremely grateful for all of the support that has been received so far from the school community and am confident in all of the measures in place to minimise any risk to our students.

Yours faithfully

Luke Salkeld