



ST. ANTHONY'S SCHOOL
FOR BOYS

Tuesday 4 January 2022

Dear Junior House Parent,

I hope that you had a relaxing Christmas Break and may I take this opportunity to wish you a Happy New Year.

You may have heard via various media outlets of concerns regarding staffing shortages in various sectors, including the NHS and schools, due to self-isolation requirements and the spread of the new variant. It is therefore important that, as a school, we ensure that contingency plans are in place should we be affected by this.

We are resolute in our determination to ensure that our school remains open **for all pupils at all times** for the remainder of the academic year; this is our key priority and we have put in place various measures to ensure that this continues to be the case.

Please rest assured that we will do everything in our power to minimise any disruption should we face staffing shortages due to self-isolation requirements. Utilising existing staff, including support staff, as well as combining classes and groups, are examples of measures which will be put in place should this be the case. If needed, we will also be asking teachers to 'teach from home' remotely should they be able to. This is in line with the latest guidance as published by the Department for Education. A link to this has been shared below:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1044530/Schools_guidance_Jan_22.pdf

If, however, due to staffing constraints we are unable to operate the school site safely and adhere to statutory ratios, we may need to revert to online learning for certain groups of students. Should this be the case you will be notified by the school at the earliest possible opportunity. Please note that, depending on the circumstances, this notification could be received on the morning of the school day, as a worst-case scenario. Upon notification of this, online learning will resume the following day.

In anticipation of this unlikely scenario please note the following in respect to our remote teaching protocols:

All teaching will take place live via Microsoft TEAMS and Zoom, led by your son's class teacher(s). As with the most recent period of remote teaching, boys will follow their normal school timetable just as they would in school. As such, students should log in to their registration TEAM at 08.30am with lessons resuming at 9.00am. All boys in Years 1-3 already have access to TEAMS as well as their individual class groups. Reception will be set up on TEAMS should the school have to close or if the year group are sent home to isolate. Where possible pupils should have access to both a microphone and camera on their device in order to make the most of online learning.

All staff will utilise the video and audio functions to make the experience as close to 'normal' as possible.

Whilst migrating teaching and learning online will be a very last resort and one that we currently do not anticipate, it is important that we remain prepared for all eventualities. I would therefore encourage families to ensure that your son(s) have access to an online device at home and are able to log in to TEAMS smoothly. The vast majority of our pupils access TEAMS regularly so this should not pose a problem. If you are, however, having any issues whatsoever, please do email the Junior House office and we will endeavour to resolve this with you.

Finally, as per last term, please be aware that should your son(s) be unable to attend school due to having received a positive PCR test you should notify us at the earliest opportunity via the Junior House Office. Your son's teachers will be notified as soon as possible, and work will be posted on TEAMS commencing the following day.

We very much look forward to the return of our pupils for another productive term.

Best wishes,

Jonathan Dunne
Assistant Head

