



HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Brake Lane, Hagley, Worcestershire DY8 2XL

Phone: 01562 883193 Fax: 01562 881820

Website: www.hagleyrc.worcs.sch.uk

Principal: Mr J Hodgson



Archdiocese of Birmingham

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God." John 1:1

11 September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been wonderful to return to school this past week with all our students and begin the process of recovery from the long period of isolation from school, friends and colleagues.

Recovery is a key theme for us this year and we have spoken with all staff and students about how we will work together, as Hagley does, to recover the loss that we have all felt, in some way shape or form, since last March.

In online assemblies this week we spoke with the students about this new beginning, the chance to restart and renew, and Mrs O'Loughlin reminded us all not to *"wait until the conditions are perfect to begin. Beginning makes the conditions perfect."* (Alan Cohen)

And so, we have begun this week and the students have been marvellous in the way they have so swiftly and sensibly responded to the new way of managing school life. I have routinely challenged us all to be our "Best Selves" over the last 12 months and did so again this week and am confident in the way everyone has risen to this challenge in order to once again engage in the joy of learning and school life.

Attending School Site

If you have any cause to enter school site and go to reception, to collect a child or drop off a forgotten item, for example, then please can I ask that face coverings are worn at all times and hands are sanitised on entry.

Travel and Face Coverings

Travel to and from the school this week has gone very well and the naturally staggered arrival of students via train, bus and car has worked well, thank you for your support with this. All students on buses now have their passes and their allocated seats and West Midlands Rail and British Transport Police have been extremely supportive and proactive at the station, especially at the end of the day, to ensure students are following the mandatory guidelines on face coverings. Guidance that you can find [here](#). Please do continue to support the systems in place by reminding your child about wearing their face covering as directed.

If your child does fall into any of the exemption categories I would advise that you contact Mrs Tyrrell (Transport Coordinator) on styrrell@hagleyrc.worcs.sch.uk to present evidence of this and arrange to have an exemption pass.

Procedures in The Event of a Suspected or Actual Case of COVID-19

I am sure that many of us in trying to process all the information received about Coronavirus and are at times uncertain about procedures and actions in the event of a suspected case. The guidance you can find [here](#) will certainly help but in a nutshell would remind you that the most important symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

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If your child presents any of these please do not send them into school and begin a period of 10 days in quarantine. Please contact attendance on 01562 883193 Option 1 or email attendance@hagleyrc.worcs.sch.uk by 8.30am to advise us and also make arrangements for a test to be carried out, which this [link](#) will advise you on.

If you have other family members who are students at Hagley they must also remain at home and begin a period of 14 days quarantine and you should advise us of this when you call or email. Students who are forced to quarantine will have their work shared with them via their Microsoft Team account or school email. In the event of a negative test and no other family members presenting symptoms your child can then return to school and you should again advise the Attendance Office of this.

Free School Meals

I am very aware that the current climate will have put some of our family's jobs and livelihoods at risk. I do very much hope that this is not the case but do expect that sadly some of you may have lost your jobs. If this is the case, you may now qualify for additional support for your child through the Free School Meal scheme and regardless of which area/authority you live in you can apply for this scheme via this link: http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20062/schools/684/applying_for_free_school_meals

Please remember that if you do qualify but your child does not want the free meal it is important you still apply, as additional funding comes into school to help us provide a better education for your child and all Hagley students.

Standards and Uniform

I am always very proud of the high standards of presentation and dress of the absolute vast majority of students at Hagley. However as is a teenagers want there is always one or two who try to push the boundaries. With that in mind please be aware the following key areas of uniform that we are monitoring closely and need you support with:

1. Piercings – only ear piercings are allowed with one small stud in each ear. No other piercings are permitted including the wearing of retainers or clear studs. These will be required to be removed in school.
2. Leather shoes – students are not permitted to wear trainers or sports branded footwear that might try to be passed off as a shoe. School shoes should be a leather/leather effect formal shoe.
3. Skirts – Skirts must be knee length and not of a lycra, stretchy type material.
4. Hairstyles – These should be a sensible and appropriate style for school and are always at the Principal's discretion. Hair should only be a natural colour, lines and patterns must not be cut into hair and full or partially shaved hair is not permitted.

Open Day and School Evenings

This term is normally a busy one of Year group Information Evenings and Open Day. Sadly, the current COVID arrangements do not allow us to have large groups of parents in school for an information evening. However, Mrs Morris (Vice Principal) has already put a pack of information together on the website for Year 12 which you can find at this [link](#).

Next week should be Year 11 Information Evening but instead a presentation will be placed on the school website from me to replace this evening and we shall advise you when this has been published.

Open Day is still planned for Saturday 10th October from 9am to 12 pm. Currently we very much hope to offer a virtual presentation and timed appointments to visit the school. More information will come out about this and be sent to our feeder primaries but if you have friends who are considering Hagley for the first time, please do let them know about our initial intentions.

Silver Linings

As part of the pastoral care offered to students as they return to school and new routines, next week we will be launching a support programme called Silver Linings during tutor time on Tuesday mornings. This

programme aims to promote positive mental health and wellbeing, guiding children and young people through life's storms. Please find attached a letter with further information.

Finally, Fr Des bid farewell to us and to Our Lady and All Saints Parish in Stourbridge last week as he heads off to take on a parish in Coventry. Fr Des has been the most wonderful servant and chaplain to the Hagley community and he goes with all our best wishes, fond memories and great thanks.

We were subsequently joined this week by Fr Phillip Griffin and are delighted to welcome him as our chaplain and look forward to our first tutor group mass next week.

Thank you, as always, for everyone's support and I do hope you all have a lovely weekend.

With every good wish, prayer and blessing.

Yours sincerely



Mr J Hodgson

Principal

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Email: jhodgson@hagleyrc.worcs.sch.uk

Dates for Your Diary

Thursday 8th October – Year 7 Virtual Parents Evening (Meet the tutor)

Friday 9th October - Teacher Training Day

Saturday 10th October - Open Day

Dear Parents/Carers

11 September 2020

The current events that we are all experiencing will have a lasting effect on the minds and hearts of everyone within our community. Our children have experienced a personal benchmark which they will remember as powerfully as prior generations who have dealt with other crises.

To support all children to understand that this event will become part of their personal history, we would like to offer them pastoral support while they learn to cope with their thoughts and feelings surrounding this crisis. Next week, we will be launching a community crisis response programme called Silver Linings during Tuesday mornings delivered in form time which will run until November.

The Silver Linings Programme was created by Rainbows, a national charity which guides children and young people through life's storms. The charity has a proven, positive impact on the lives of children who have experienced a trauma or loss in their lives and the Silver Linings Programme aims to support self-esteem, trust, confidence and resilience, whilst promoting positive emotional and mental development and healthy relationships.

We encourage you to talk to your child about their experiences while participating in the Silver Linings Programme and if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact your child's Head of Year.

Yours sincerely



Mr R Miastowski

Assistant Principal