

Our Ref : SPP/JET
25 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I am delighted at the prospect of our students returning to school from 8 March and optimistic that we may well now be on a journey to stability and uninterrupted education for all our school community. However, as we move forward none of us can underestimate the significant impact the pandemic has had on the educational provision and progress of our students and that is at the forefront of our minds as we plan ahead.

As Headteacher I want to revisit my guarantee to all parents and carers that when your child walks through the doors of All Saints Catholic High School our aim is that they are immersed in excellence. All students need to feel excellent about their school environment, about their peers and teachers who they interact with on a daily basis and, crucially, they need to feel excellent about themselves. Excellence needs to be evident in the relationships between staff and students, in the quality of teaching, our pastoral care and support and the attitude, behaviour and aspirations of every student in our school.

Every student at All Saints Catholic High School needs to have the highest aspirations; the attitude that they have the same potential as any other young person. Because we love our students we need to demonstrate this, not only through how we care and support their health and wellbeing which is always the priority, but through having the very highest expectations of them and challenging them to meet those expectations. This epitomises what we refer to as **'The All Saints' Way'**. We can only achieve these ambitions by working in partnership with families. This letter is a plea for that continued support as we plan for a renewed focus on our whole school **Visible Consistencies**.

Upon the return to school we will be having a renewed and explicit focus on what we feel are the key ingredients to re-establishing a culture of excellence. I will send out communication relating to each strand of our visible consistencies as we move through our cycle. The first strand that we will focus on is **School Uniform**. Quite simply, our aim is that every student should take pride in their uniform and appearance as members of the All Saints' community.

You will have received a revised copy of our uniform policy, via MyEd and updated on our school website, which I would ask you to digest and please note that within this we include the need for specific equipment and a school bag. The uniform policy is designed to be as clear and unambiguous as possible so that, in the spirit of working in partnership together, everyone is clear on what our agreed expectations are regarding the All Saints' school uniform.

I am extremely proud of our school uniform and the fact that the vast majority of our students adhere to it fully. Our students are the ambassadors for our school out in the wider community. When they travel to and from school they are presenting the image and identity of our school. When in full uniform, simply put, they look excellent.

I do, however, have concerns about some students coming to school without a school bag and, in some cases, the necessary equipment that they need in order to be fully prepared to learn. We will focus explicitly on equipment in the next strand but I should be grateful if you would check the equipment list in the policy so that your child returns fully equipped.

We are conscious that many of our students may have outgrown uniform that they were wearing in the autumn term and that some families may have had problems purchasing new items. If this is the case then please contact your child's Year Progress Leader or Mrs Breislin, j.breislin@allsaints.sheffield.sch.uk

In recognition of potential issues purchasing uniform, for this year **we will permit the wearing of our blue school polo shirt as an optional alternative to shirt and tie from 8 March.** Normally, our school polo shirts are allowed in the summer term but I appreciate when students return we will only have three weeks of the spring term remaining and so would not expect anyone to purchase a new shirt which may only be worn for such a short period of time.

One final point on items of uniform is a reminder that both a face mask and lanyard remain essential items of our school uniform. Students must bring a face mask and lanyard with them to school every day. The latest Government guidance recommends that face masks be worn by students in classrooms which has been the case here for all those students in school since January. Whilst the wearing of a face mask in the classroom is not compulsory, in the interests of safety and in line with Government guidance we will be asking students to do so and, in turn, would ask you to support us in encouraging your child to adhere to this request unless they are exempt from doing so. I do appreciate some students and parents have expressed some concern and anxiety about wearing a face mask in the classroom and therefore need to clarify that it is highly recommended but not compulsory.

To conclude, I would wish to reiterate my genuine plea for your support in ensuring we maintain excellent uniform throughout the whole school. The main issue for the school when we have to deal with non-compliance is that it is simply a waste of everyone's time and energy. On occasion, with a very small number of students, we find ourselves having to devote so much time over the issue that it detracts from what we want and need to be doing which is building positive relationships with our students and ensuring they are engaged in excellent learning. You will note, for example, in our uniform policy that our policy on items such as jewellery, make up, nails and other accessories is absolutely clear and you will note the sanctions imposed for non-compliance. Such sanctions are necessary if we are going to achieve excellent uniform across our whole school community. These are the items of uniform, particularly items such as nose piercings and false eyelashes, which cause us the biggest issues and the last thing we want is to be in a position where we have to impose such sanctions and enter into dispute with students or indeed families over such matters.

As I have mentioned, we will only achieve excellence by working in partnership with yourselves. I have been so grateful for the encouragement and messages of support from so many families over the past weeks and months. I ask again, as we move forward together as members the All Saints' family, to continue that support, working together in The All Saints' Way with the highest expectations and aspirations for the young people in our care.

Yours sincerely



Sean Pender
Headteacher