

'An Outstanding Catholic School' S48, March 2017

Rochdale Road, Middleton, Manchester, M24 2GL T: 0161 643 4009 | E: admin@clrchs.co.uk | W: www.clrchs.co.uk Headteacher: Mr A Bridson B.Sc. (Hons), MA (Education), NPQH

Tuesday 20th July 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

As we approach the end of an extraordinary year, I want to express my sincere thanks for your support. Thank you to those that responded to our recent survey. The responses were overwhelmingly positive and you can access the summary <u>here</u>.

The challenges of the last 18 months have been difficult for all of us. We have managed lockdowns, self-isolation, bubbles, remote learning and the cancellation of exams but we are emerging as a stronger community and are looking forward to the return of more normal times. As a school community, we have worked incredibly hard to provide home learning opportunities and I know that you have risen to the considerable challenge of home schooling to ensure that our students, your children, have continued to make progress.

Throughout the pandemic our students have been amazing. They have accepted the changes that we needed to make, and have always looked after their peers and those in our community that needed our support. I expect that in the future we will look back on this period and recognise the fantastic contribution that this generation of young people have made to our society. As we look forward to next year I don't want to talk about lost learning and catch up but rather the opportunities to create better learning and support programmes that have been developed during the pandemic and their potential to have a lasting impact on how we all learn.

In preparation for the new academic year, I want to outline some key information that you need to be aware of.

September 2021

The new year will start with Year 7 & 12 students returning at 8.20am on Monday 6th September. This will allow the Year 7 students to have the transition experience they missed during the summer term. Year 12 will also be in for the morning session only as part of their Sixth Form induction.

All other students will return on Tuesday 7th September.













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COVID Testing

The Government announcement regarding step 4 of the national roadmap means that the guidance for schools has also been updated. You can access the DfE Guidance for Parents & Carers here. The majority of restrictions have been removed but there is an expectation that all students will complete two on-site tests at the start of the term. The guidance states:

As your child will potentially mix with lots of other people during the summer holidays, all secondary school pupils and college students should receive 2 on-site lateral flow device tests, 3 to 5 days apart, on their return in the autumn term. Your child should then continue to test twice weekly at home until the end of September, when this will be reviewed.

We will continue with our classroom self-test model in September with test one on the first day back and test two on Friday 10th September. If you have not previously provided consent for testing and would like to do so, please complete the form <u>here</u>.

A copy of our privacy notice can be found <u>here</u>.

Regular testing over the summer holiday is strongly recommended and on the last day of term students will be able to collect a test kit to bring home with them. Test kits are also available at local pharmacies and test centres if you need a replacement over the break.

Parent / Carer Evenings

Although we are expecting restrictions to ease next year, we are maintaining our cautious approach to having large numbers of people on site and so will be continuing with virtual parent / carer evenings for at least the autumn term. A laptop loan scheme will be in operation to enable all families to participate.

PE Kit

As we anticipate moving to more normal times in September, we expect the changing rooms will be available again. Students have been positive about wearing their PE kits to school on days that they have lessons, but this has also restricted the curriculum, and not being able to change is not practical in wet or hot weather. To enable us to offer the full curriculum in September we will return to the normal arrangement of students attending in school uniform and changing for their PE lessons.

Uniform

We would like to thank all our families for supporting us in maintaining very high standards of behaviour, attendance and uniform. We expect everyone to be ambassadors for our school by taking pride in their professional appearance and expect all students to be correctly and smartly dressed in school at all times.













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Plain, black school shoes (no trainers or sport shoes with logos) are expected at all times, as is the Cardinal Langley tie and blazer. Plain back tailored trousers or a pleated/A line skirt and white school shirt are essential items. One small, plain safety stud may be worn in each ear-lobe; other piercings and jewellery are not allowed and students will be expected to remove them. We do not allow students to wear make-up, nail varnish or false nails/eyelashes (again, students will be expected to remove them). Hairstyles should be tidy and a reasonable length. Plain hair clips, headbands and bobbles may be used to keep hair tidy but extreme hairstyles, such as shaved or shaved patterns for example, and dyed hair of an unnatural colour or appearance are not appropriate for school.

Please speak with your child's Progress and Academic Leader if you would like check that a specific style of item is allowed in school, to avoid any unnecessary additional cost and so that together we can concentrate on providing the very highest standards of education for our children.

Free School Meals

We appreciate that the pandemic has been a difficult time financially for many families and I encourage you to apply for free school meals if you are in receipt of a qualifying benefit. Details and an application form can be found at http://www.rochdale.gov.uk/schools-and-education/Pages/free-school-meals.aspx

Holiday Activity & Food Programme

This is a council run programme that offers free activities during the summer holidays across Rochdale, Heywood, Middleton and Pennines. Please see the website which details the Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Summer 2021 programme. The activities are open to children and families on benefit-related free school meals (FSM). All activities are free and include food www.haf-rochdale.co.uk



There are a variety of fun and enriching activities for children and young people aged 5-16 (but can include 4 years olds already in Reception year) to take part in.

Activities are being delivered at different locations and at a variety of sites throughout the Summer Holidays. Booking information for each activity can be found on the webpage. There are limited places at each of the sessions which the different providers will manage. If new places are offered, or provision is no longer available, these will be updated on the HAF webpage throughout the Summer Holidays.

Some of the providers may ask for a voucher code. This is: HAF2021













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If the guidance for September changes then I will provide a further update before the start of the new academic year.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Mr A Bridson Headteacher









