

# Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

Stakes Hill Road  
Waterlooville  
Hampshire  
PO7 7BW

☎ 023 9225 9214

☎ 023 9223 0317

🌐 [www.oaklandscatholicschool.org](http://www.oaklandscatholicschool.org)

✉ [oaklands@oaklandscatholicschool.org](mailto:oaklands@oaklandscatholicschool.org)



Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Registered in England and Wales, Company No 07721932

**Headteacher:** Matthew Quinn B.Ed (Hons), M.A., NPQH

Our Ref: MQ/SM

27 August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I promised I would write to you again before the end of the holiday, in preparation for the new term. I am aware that I have filled email inboxes since the start of the pandemic - this is my twentieth letter; keeping you informed has been a priority.

I hope you are all well and are as excited and pleased as I am to get children back into school this September. We are delighted that students will be re-joining us, by way of a reminder our phased return will be as follows.

Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September	Staff INSET
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	Year 7 only
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Year 7, Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	Whole School return

This phased return will allow us to settle the youngsters, after what has been a long and difficult absence from school and to explain the necessary procedures that have been put in place to help maintain both their safety and the safety of staff. This gradual reintroduction to the school will allow us to focus on making sure all students feel safe, looked after and more confident about the whole school return by the end of the week.

In July, I laid out for you our plans for returning to school; I was encouraged by the number of parents supportive of these and eager to get their children back into school. The potential damage to youngsters being out of school outweighs the risks associated with the virus.

To help you and your child, we have produced a 'Back to School' booklet which addresses many of the details related to what happens in school. Please take time to read this and discuss it with your child. The information can be found by following this link:

[\*\*Student and Parent Booklet\*\*](#)

The booklet contains all the details related to returning to school and how we intend to keep your child and staff safe. The situation will be different to that experienced by students before the schools were closed at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Students will need time to adjust to these new arrangements and we are hoping that the first three days will allow this to happen in a phased manner.

We have also produced a short video detailing some of the control measures the school has put in place; we will issue the link to this separately.

In addition, we have produced COVID Addendums to a number of policies. These clarify the changes we have made to our Safeguarding, Attendance and Behaviour policies and the updates to the Home School Agreement.

<https://www.oaklandscatholicschool.org/about-us/policies/>

The DfE has recently released more general information related to the reopening of schools for parents and students which can be found using this link:

[Advice for Parents](#)

Like many of you, I have been monitoring the advice being provided to schools by scientific advisers. However, it is clear that as a nation we have some way to go until 'normal play' resumes. The recent message in the media related to fines for gatherings of more than 30 people at public social events confirms this. I suspect that the measures the school has put in place will remain for most of this academic year. Over the holiday, considerable work has been undertaken to comply with the guidance.

Yesterday, the guidance on face coverings changed. At the time of writing, these are not compulsory unless schools are in a designated high risk area. The Government has left it to schools in low risk parts of England to make their own decisions. The evidence related to the use of non-surgical face coverings (face coverings includes homemade or disposable masks procured from supermarkets) is less clear-cut. The ambiguity around the science probably explains the different approaches different countries have taken – and the evolving rules around wearing face masks.

At this stage, we will not be making face coverings compulsory, however from the start of the autumn term, students are strongly encouraged to wear face masks in corridors and circulation areas, this includes outside and in the canteen. Face masks are currently not required in lessons. We will continue to review this position and if the advice and guidance changes over the next few weeks, we will respond accordingly. The responsibility to provide face coverings for children remains with parents.

I have received an email today from our uniform providers stating that there may be a delay in certain stock due to COVID-19 related supplier issues. Please be aware of this if you are ordering any last-minute items.

I understand fully that some parents and carers will be anxious about their child's return to school; we are all trying to come to terms with the impact of the pandemic which has challenged the way we now live our lives. The national guidance developed by the Government and supported by scientific advisers, supports a safe return to school for children, young people and staff, taking full account of progress made in suppressing COVID-19.

The school will continue to follow Government and scientific advice and will keep you informed of any implications in as timely a way as we can. Recent updates are usually available via the school website and our social media channels. Our priorities are to ensure that our students and staff keep safe and well and to do all that we can to ensure we can continue to run our school day as normal, keeping things in perspective.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Quinn  
**Headteacher**