

# Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust  
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**Headteacher:** Matthew Quinn B.Ed (Hons), M.A., NPQH

Our Ref: MQ/SM

12 March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to say a huge thank you to all of the parents and carers who gave consent for testing to take place this week. This is another important step towards the opening of school and one of the control measures put in place across all schools.

Since last Friday we have now carried out more than 2,500 tests. You will be aware from my letter dated 11<sup>th</sup> March that we found a positive case and this necessitated us following our test and trace procedure. The school has to follow the guidance provided to us.

I would also like to thank all the volunteers who came forward to assist with the testing; we could not have done it without them and it is very much appreciated. Finally, I would like to say a huge congratulations to our students in the manner in which they conducted themselves during the testing.

Some students have now already had their second and third tests during the school day. Once the third test is complete, students will be issued with a home testing kit. The procedure and details related to this will be included in two separate letters. There is a significant amount of information to take in here, including when the kits will be distributed, when home testing starts and how to register the test. I cannot stress enough how important it is for you to read these and act upon the information provided.

I would like to recognise the work that you have done over the last term. Lockdown learning has not been without its challenges, but it is a privilege to be part of a community where we have all worked together to provide the best outcome in difficult circumstances. Thank you for your support, encouragement and feedback: it has been greatly appreciated.

There will be some disruption to the rhythm of the school until we have completed the testing and we also continue with the range of other control measures that we have in place.

Now that the second period of school closure has thankfully come to an end, it is vital that we all do everything we can to keep school open and continue our education for our children.

On Friday morning, all students in Years 7-11 had time in their tutor groups to rebuild that all-important sense of community and we will continue to find ways to do that in the coming months as a sense of wellbeing in school will lead to greater engagement with learning. Earlier in the week Sixth Form students had input in relation to their mental and physical wellbeing for their final two months of college.

Extra-curricular PE activities will recommence on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March. Each year group has a designated evening – Monday Y7, Tuesday Y8, Wednesday Y9, Thursday Y10 and Friday Y11. Students need to sign up using 'Squad in Touch' - Mr Wade has sent information on Teams about this.

Please continue to speak to your children about keeping to all the rules and being sensible in school so that everyone is kept as safe as possible.

I remain optimistic that as a nation a corner has been turned, particularly with large numbers of people receiving the vaccine. Although this means that there will be an end to lockdowns and school closures, it is vital that we are vigilant, and that complacency does not set in.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr M Quinn', written in a cursive style.

Mr M Quinn  
**Headteacher**