

# 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

19 March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I write to you today on the feast day of St Joseph. The little we know about St Joseph we glean from the Gospels. He was a righteous man who followed the law; he observed religious law – we know he went to Jerusalem for the Jewish festivals. He also followed civil law. What is interesting to me is that nowhere in the Gospels do we ever hear anything Joseph says. But he's a man of action, he does what the angel tells him; he takes Mary as his wife and we all know the rest of the story.

Joseph was a man of action and not words. Throughout all of this crisis we have seen the impact of people of action, whether it is those working in hospitals, school, foodbanks or doing the 'stuff' quietly in the background that has kept society churning. A big thank you to all the 'St Josephs' out there.

Having everyone back on site this week has been a genuine tonic. The joy of chatting to children and watching and listening to them reconnect is difficult to put into words. Your children are amazing. Whether it was conversations during the time I spent working in our Lateral Flow Test holding area, or during my visits to lessons, the conversations demonstrated how adaptable students are. Some youngsters have told me how they have enjoyed working from home, while others feel they have fallen behind with some of their work. I'm confident, for the most part, anxieties will ebb away as we get back into the normal timetable and the rhythm of school life.

Coronavirus has now disrupted nearly an entire year of learning. The pandemic has exposed deep-seated issues that have been holding students back for decades. It's time to ask: how can we help students come through this crisis with a quality education and, in doing so, transform our entire system of education for the better? None of this will happen overnight, I don't want to look back later in my career and think this was a missed opportunity.

## Lateral Flow Tests

The Lateral Flow Testing has gone very smoothly; at the time of writing, we have come to the end of the third round of testing for the vast majority of students. Home testing kits have now been issued to all students who have had their three tests. If they haven't made their way out of school bags yet, please note that the next test date is this Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> March, for all students Years 7-13 and tests must be completed by 7.00pm every Sunday and Wednesday with the results uploaded using Test Register. Students and parents will get an email reminder on the days where test results are due to be submitted and by clicking on this link (no activation codes required), you can input the test result. Please check your junk folders if you can't see the email.

Step 1 gives school the result and Step 2 gives the result to the NHS. **The test result must be submitted to both school and the NHS, whether positive, negative or void.** Please can you ensure you get into the routine of this as we have been told that home testing will continue over the Easter holidays and into the summer term. We have published information on how to use the home test kits so please follow this link, testing is much easier than you would think!

[LFT Home Testing - Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College](#)

Please note that families can now order home test kits if they have a school age child in the home. [Schools, nurseries and colleges testing: order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow home test kits - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

## **Re-Establishing Routines**

The next few weeks either side of Easter are being used to establish the rules and routines of the school. Please remember our uniform policy, including rules on jewellery, make up and phones. Some students have returned to school without basic equipment. This is a problem as we can't easily share resources. Please ensure your child has the necessary equipment ready to learn. If there are genuine issues around this please speak to your child's form tutor. Next week we are planning to re-establish our assembly routines whilst maintaining class bubbles.

Skoolkit are due to re-open on 12<sup>th</sup> April and information can be found on the website about ordering uniform.

[Schoolkit Shop Reopening - Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College](#)

## **Year 9 and Year 10 Careers – Virtual Careers Fair**

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, students in Years 9 and 10 have not had the level of careers input that they would have experienced in 'normal' years. One event that has not taken place for Year 10 is the Federation Careers Fair, where students attend an event at South Downs College to explore their potential next steps. As an alternative, Hampshire Futures - who provide our Careers advisors in school - have put together the following videos, which link curriculum subjects to future career paths. Students in Years 9, 10 and 11 may find this helpful when considering KS4 / Post-16 choices. Your child can access this link to watch some of the videos; this link will expire on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.

[Hampshire Futures Careers Videos](#)

## **Parking**

A reminder to parents who are collecting and dropping off their children at school – please do not block driveways, park on the white lines or double yellow lines or grass verges in local residential areas. It is important that consideration is given to residents who live in the areas around the school.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Quinn  
**Headteacher**