



# All Hallows RC High School

Specialising in Business, Enterprise & Sports

150 Eccles Old Road, Salford M6 8AA

Telephone: 0161 921 1900

E-mail: [allhallows@salford.gov.uk](mailto:allhallows@salford.gov.uk)

Website: [www.allhallowssalford.com](http://www.allhallowssalford.com)

Headteacher: Mrs A. Cavanagh

December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this letter finds you and your families well. As the Christmas holiday approaches, I wanted to bring your attention to a few important items.

## **Important Dates**

Firstly, I am confirming that we will break up on Friday 18th December as planned. The school day will finish earlier at (Pupils will leave 12.40–12.50pm).

Monday 4th January is now a Training day for all staff. Pupils will not attend school on that day. The new term will start on Tuesday 5th January for pupils in all year groups at 8.30am.

## **Coronavirus**

As I write, news in Salford concerning the falling Coronavirus transmission rate is encouraging and with vaccination programmes beginning nationally, there is a feeling that there is light at the end of the tunnel. However, it is important that you stress to your child that we are still in a very high alert, Tier 3 area. We are continuing to work hard in school to ensure that All Hallows is as safe for pupils and staff as possible. In addition to the hands, face, space message, could you especially ensure that your child is mindful of, and tries to limit, the amount of social interaction they have with other pupils in school and on the way home. We wish to avoid the situation where we are asking our pupils to self-isolate over Christmas, therefore it is more important than ever that pupils do not mix with each other unnecessarily.

Having said that, the vast majority of our pupils have been superb at wearing their masks on our corridors, keeping distance from each other and staff and ensuring they wash or sanitise their hands regularly – you can be proud of the way they have conducted themselves this term.

## **Covid testing**

COVID testing for pupils with non-classic symptoms: You are now able to book a COVID-19 test for your child/ren who attend our school if they feel unwell with 'non-classical' COVID19 symptoms. Whilst we know a lot of people are more likely to catch winter viruses at this time of year, in Salford we still want to rule out the possibility of COVID-19 and encourage children to get tested. A letter giving details of this has already been emailed.

### **Isolation period**

This has now been reduced to 10 full days from the 14 that has been advised up to this point.

### **Message from the Public Health Director for Salford**

Community engagement:

Our rates of community transmission remain very high (eight of our wards have rates over 150 per 100,000) and some communities are not reducing as fast as the average for Salford.

We need to continue to limit social interactions especially as shops have opened and in the lead up to Christmas.

I would urge everyone to follow the Tier 3 rules and guidance in order to continue to bring down the number of cases and keep them as low as possible.

Our collective actions can keep the number of cases down. This will help everyone to have a safer Christmas and New Year.

We continue to advise full infection control precautions and that people with symptoms should book a test. This is because even a small outbreak in the community can trigger exponential spread.

- As you make your plans for Christmas, consider how you can protect vulnerable people in your social and family group, so you are reducing as much as possible your interactions even while you are celebrating.
- The virus will still be circulating, and we should be prepared to cancel plans at short notice if someone becomes unwell or tests positive.
- Now is the time to follow even more carefully the guidance on face coverings, social distancing and hand hygiene so you and your loved ones can stay well this winter.
- Anyone who is unwell should stay at home and get tested. The NHS is open, and if you need medical assistance you must seek support.

Every small change we make can have a huge impact.

Dr Muna Abdel Aziz

Director of Public Health for Salford

### **Testing during the holidays**

If your child is unwell (with any symptoms), please arrange a test for them during the Christmas holiday. Use the government website ([www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test)) as detailed in our previous letter. Please do not wait until the day your child is due back at school – we want to reduce missed learning time.

### **Worried about Christmas? Need help?**

If you are worried about affording food or heating for the Christmas holidays, please let us know using [studentservices@allhallowsrc.co.uk](mailto:studentservices@allhallowsrc.co.uk) and we will help (discretely). Please don't be too proud or embarrassed to ask - it's for your children.

I've been there. My parents were good people, hard-working and loving, but had bouts of real financial hardship – we had our gas/electric cut off and were in receipt of SVP food parcels etc. As a family, we experienced kindness then, please let us as your All Hallows family, help you now.

### **New Timetable**

After Christmas we will begin our new timetable. In the Summer we made the decision to maintain the 2019-2020 timetable into the Autumn term in order to ensure continuity for our pupils following the extended first lockdown. The Year 9s option process is now complete and these pupils will begin their GCSE/vocational courses in January. This will have a knock on effect to all timetables, but in many cases, especially in Years 10 and 11, pupils will continue with the same teachers.

### **Parents Evening**

As a school we have had to be innovative and creative in finding different ways to communicate with parents and other interested parties this year – we have emailed and phoned more often, and have held virtual online events for New Intake Evening and Open Night. Additionally, we have conducted three online virtual Parents Evenings. These have involved face-to-face meetings between parents and their child's subject teachers using a platform called SchoolCloud. I am pleased to report that over 70% of year 7 parents 'attended' Parents evening last week. Also, that the majority of parents surveyed, have reported that they thought this method works really well, and that it was more efficient in that they didn't have to queue or travel to school, and that it felt more intimate in that no-one else could overhear what was being spoken about. Some parents were a little nervous at being on camera at first, but soon got into the swing of it and found the evening very useful. Further Parents' Evenings will be held this year, for other year groups using the same method.

### **Staff Farewell**

Sadly we say goodbye to both Mrs Harris (Head of RE) and Mr Mulcahy (Teaching Assistant), who will be leaving All Hallows at the end of term. Mrs Harris is taking up a promotion at another school and Mr Mulcahy is retiring. We would like to thank them for their hard work and dedication to the pupils of All Hallows; they will be greatly missed by staff and pupils alike.

### **Contacting School**

We are always happy to speak with parents regarding your child's education and welfare and we would like to remind you that your first point of contact with school should be your child's form tutor. The form tutor knows your child well and should be able to assist you with most enquiries. The next point of contact would be your child's Pupil Progress Leader. Please also ensure that we have up to date phone numbers for you and other contacts as

this is essential for emergencies and general communications. Please also note that teaching staff will endeavour to return all calls as soon as is reasonably possible, and certainly within 48 hours, and that they fit these around a full timetable of teaching and other commitments.

When contacting the school, the vast majority of parents / carers keep calm and respect our staff. They understand that the teachers, receptionists and all other staff are doing the best they can to support pupils and their parents / carers and that we are here to help. The staff should be able to do their jobs without being verbally abused or shouted at or threatened. Most people respect this – thank you! In the rare cases where this respect is missing, please be aware that staff reserve the right to refuse to communicate with any person who is abusive or aggressive.

Student Services Email- Parents can also contact school via our email address [studentservices@allhallowsrc.co.uk](mailto:studentservices@allhallowsrc.co.uk). This is checked daily and emails are forwarded to the most appropriate person for response.

### **Uniform Expectations**

Thank you to all parents for supporting our high expectations of uniform; the pupils have looked very smart this term. Please be reminded shoes must be plain, black school shoes (no Vans, canvas or sports shoes) – we apply this rule rigidly, providing footwear to be borrowed in cases where pupils are unable to comply. As a reminder, please do not allow your child to have any piercings, bizarre haircuts or irreversible beauty treatments over the holiday. Any acrylics or nail varnish should be removed before returning to school. **Jewellery** must be limited to a watch and a pair of small plain studs or hoops in the lower ear. These are the **only** piercings which are allowed.

A reminder that pupils need to be fully equipped for school and must take personal responsibility for this. They need black pen(s), pencil(s) and a ruler (preferably in a pencil case), and all exercise books which should be carried in a large school bag.

Please find below some brief reminders about the charity work we are undertaking at this time of year (see previous letter sent by Mrs Done):

### **Mission Christmas**

Pupils and their families have proudly supported this charity for the last ten years, and have contributed again this year very generously. We have had cash donations and new, unused presents that have now been collected and delivered to the Mission Christmas HQ.

### **Christmas Jumper Day - Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

Many pupils dressed up and looked festively fabulous, whilst raising over £140 for our Christmas charities that include Mission Christmas, Wish Upon A Star and Salford Loaves and Fishes.

### **Reverse Advent Calendar**

Each school day throughout December, pupils and staff in each form group are encouraged to fill their Reverse Advent boxes with donated items that will help homeless people in our local area.

### **Sponsored Christmas Walk/PE Kit**

The PE department organised a Christmas sponsored walk during PE lessons during the w/c Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December. We encouraged all pupils to participate and pupils raised money through sponsorship. Please note that for these final days before Christmas, pupils do not need their PE kit. They will, however, need to be in full All Hallows' PE kits for lessons after Christmas.

### **Non-uniform Day – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December**

On the final day of term we will be holding a full non-uniform day and we ask that pupils donate £1 towards our Christmas charities.

In addition to these charity events, we have planned some more activities, within the restrictions of our COVID safe procedures, for the remaining two weeks of term:

### **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December**

Christmas lunch: Please be aware that Christmas dinner will be the only hot choice available on this day and that the alternative option will be a sandwich.

### **Wednesday 16th December 2020 – Year 7**

Year 7 Christmas Crafts and Activity Day - pupils will take part in five different crafts and activities during Periods 1-5. Period 6 will be a chance for your child to showcase their talents in front of the Year 7 cohort. Prizes and Certificates will be available for pupils that have shown hard work, flair, teamwork and good communication skills.

### **Thursday 17th December 2020**

From 1:30pm to 3pm all pupils will have the opportunity to watch the world's first **'Virtual Panto - Cinderella'**

The panto will be interactive and pupils will be able to softly shout and cheer at the characters in real time! Prizes will be available for the classes that engage the most.

### **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

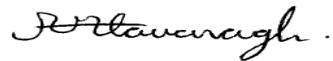
There can be no school disco this year (breaking a long tradition!), instead, we will be holding form activities such as a quiz.

Finally, I wish you all a peaceful, happy and spiritual Christmas as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, and enjoy the giving and receiving of presents.

**Please note that pupils will finish school, after an early lunch, from 12.30pm on Friday 18th December.**

I look forward to welcoming all the pupils safely back to school on **Tuesday 5th January 2020.**

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'A. Cavanagh', followed by a period.

A Cavanagh  
**Head Teacher**