



# Holy Family Catholic School & Sixth Form

**Headteacher:** Dr. A. Stone BA Hons (Cantab) NPQH



## Walthamstow House Site

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Head of Lower School

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## Wiseman House Site

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5th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you and your families had some rest over the Christmas period and a happy new year to you all as we begin 2021. While we all hope for a better year we had the news last night that we must go into a further national lockdown with schools again closed to all students except for those who are vulnerable and children of key workers.

## What this means for Holy Family students is as follows:

### Vulnerable and key worker children

School is open only for vulnerable and key worker students. If you need advice about your child's eligibility to attend school at present then please contact us. The school office is open to take calls each day and senior staff are also present each day to respond to any queries.

### Remote learning

All other students will be receiving remote learning from today Tuesday 5th January. We are told that this will continue at least until the half-term holiday on Friday 12th February i.e. for a period of 6 weeks. We will be seeking to provide lessons according to your child's daily timetable and a high proportion of these lessons will be 'live' online lessons requiring your child to login and participate.

We have produced a code of conduct for participation in live lessons which I am attaching to this letter. Naturally we need your support with encouraging your child to participate in a mature manner and to engage in what will be a challenging period for their learning. We need to work together in this regard so that every student gets the most benefit from remote learning. We ask that you click on the link in the remote learning code of conduct document to confirm that you have read and understood the contents.

### Live streamed Mass for the Feast of the Epiphany

Tomorrow (Wednesday 6th Jan) is the Feast of the Epiphany when we mark the visit of the Wise Men or the Three Kings to the baby Jesus. There will be a live streamed mass taking place in Romford and celebrated by the Diocesan Youth Chaplain Fr Dominic. This will start at 12.15pm and take the place of tomorrow's period 4 lesson. The link for the Mass which is being streamed on YouTube can be found below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VeBcbbBzGuw>

### Digital devices

We have loaned a considerable number of devices to families to help with access to remote learning. The government announced that schools would receive more of these devices this week but, as yet, this has not been the case. However, if you have an issue with digital access then please do contact us about this and we will do what we can to assist.

ASPIRE TO THE HOLY FAMILY WAY



### **Exams for Yr 11 and Yr 13 students**

The Prime Minister announced that exams would not be going ahead for GCSE and A level students this summer. Btec exams that are due to take place this week and next week will be taking place and students due to sit those exams should prepare as normal and report for the exams which will be held in a socially distanced and covid secure manner. If sixth form students have any questions about their Btec exams then they should contact Mr Delf or any member of the sixth form team.

We do not yet know exactly how teachers will be asked to assess students in Yr 11 and Yr 13 and make decisions about what grades they should be awarded for their GCSE and A level exams. It is therefore essential that students in those yeargroups continue to attend all online sessions and complete all work set by their teachers because we will be basing assessment decisions on a range of data and a range of evidence. These next weeks will be vitally important in that regard. We will provide further information about this once it becomes available.

### **Free school meals**

Vouchers will be provided shortly to families of children entitled to free school meals. Students who attend school each day as part of our key worker/vulnerable student provision will be able to have a hot meal each day at school.

### **Pastoral support**

As before in the first lockdown last year we shall be ensuring that we do our best to provide pastoral support to every student in the school community. If students are not engaging with online learning then we shall be following this up and we will be making contact with families about how your child is doing. There will be members of the safeguarding and pastoral teams in school on each day and you can make contact with them if you have any concerns about your child that you wish to discuss. We want to ensure that we are here to support all our children at this time and we realise this is a very difficult time for everyone, students, you as parents and staff at the school.

### **Key contacts of senior staff**

Dr Stone Headteacher

[a.stone@hollyfamily.waltham.sch.uk](mailto:a.stone@hollyfamily.waltham.sch.uk)

Mr Murphy Deputy Headteacher/Head of Lower School

[p.murphy@hollyfamily.waltham.sch.uk](mailto:p.murphy@hollyfamily.waltham.sch.uk)

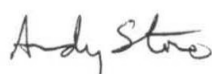
Mrs Klitou Vice-Principal/Head of Upper School

[a.klitou@hollyfamily.waltham.sch.uk](mailto:a.klitou@hollyfamily.waltham.sch.uk)

Other key contacts can be found on the school's website.

Do let us know if you have any issues or concerns, or any positive feedback that you would like to pass on to staff. We are here to help.

Yours sincerely



Dr Andy Stone  
Headteacher