



Holy Family Catholic School & Sixth Form



Headteacher: Mrs C Laws BA Hons

ASPIRE TO THE HOLY FAMILY WAY

'Aspire not to have more, but to be more.' Oscar Romero

16th October 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to update on the start of the school year, and to let you know about some changes to our routines.

As the new Headteacher, I have been really impressed with how well students have settled back after the summer break. I have been going into lessons on both sites and seen excellent attitudes to learning and a real sense of commitment across all year groups.

I would like to share with you some news about what has been happening in school since the start of term, some upcoming events and some reminders about our routines and expectations.

Catholic life

The Year 7 students have made an excellent start to their time at Holy Family as have the new Year 12 students. Both year groups started the year with Mass, and on Wednesday 21st there is a retreat day for Year 11. We hope to be able to run retreats for all year groups during the course of the year, giving all students the chance to reflect on their faith and develop their spiritual life.

Information evenings for parents

The Year 11 parents' information evening takes place next Tuesday 20th September on the Wiseman site at 6.30pm. Please look out for a letter from Mr Gharu, Head of Upper site, with further details.

Further information evenings are as follows:

Wiseman site

Year 10 - Tuesday 27th September at 6.30pm

Year 9 - Tuesday 4th October at 6.30pm

Walthamstow House Site

1 Shernhall Street, London E17 3EA

Mr P Murphy BSc Hons

Deputy Headteacher & Head of Lower School

Tel: 020 8520 0482 **Web:** www.holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk

Wiseman House Site

30-34 Shernhall Street, London E17 9RT

Mr J Gharu BA Hons

Deputy Headteacher & Head of Upper School

Tel: 020 8520 3587 **Email:** office@holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk



Walthamstow site

Year 8 – Wednesday 28th September at 6.30pm

Year 7 – Wednesday 19th October (Settling in evening with Form Tutors) by appointment

Year 12- 15th September at 6.30pm

Year 13 – 29th September at 6.30pm

Routines and reminders

As a split-site school, it is important that we have a coherent approach across both upper and lower sites, so that our high expectations for behaviour and learning are consistent.

On the upper and lower sites, the following apply:

- **Line-ups:** Students in Years 7-10 line up at the start of the day, after break and after lunch. They are collected by teachers and accompanied to lessons. This ensures orderly movement around the buildings and a smooth start to lessons. Many of the school buildings are old and corridors are narrow, so safe movement is essential.
- **Mobile phones:** Students in Years 7-11 are forbidden to bring mobile phones into school. If found they will be confiscated and only returned to a parent/carer after two weeks.
- **Uniform:** A letter from Mrs Gaynor and Mr Fidegnon was sent home before the summer break and you can see it in the link below:
<https://www.holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk/assets/Uniform/Uniform-Letter-July-2022.pdf>
- Students who persistently breach the school's uniform rules will be placed in the Bethany Room until the issue is resolved.

Our expectations for behaviour

Our approach to behaviour is summed up in three words: Ready, Respectful, Safe. We expect all students to be ready to learn, respectful of themselves, other students and their teachers and to conduct themselves in a safe way both in and out of school, and online.

You can read our behaviour policy and the governors' statement on behaviour here:

<https://www.holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk/assets/Documents/Attachments/Positive-Behaviour-Policy-2022.pdf>

<https://www.holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk/assets/Documents/Attachments/Behaviour-Principles-Statement-2022.pdf>

The vast majority of our students show exemplary behaviour both in and out of lessons and we expect our students to represent us positively whilst they are wearing our uniform on their way to and from school.

However, when behaviour falls below our high standards sanctions will be applied, including suspension from school. This is not something that we do lightly - nevertheless for serious breaches we will always issue a suspension.

Headteacher's surgeries

Parents and carers are welcome to attend the weekly Headteacher's surgery, which takes place every Thursday 4pm to 5pm on the Walthamstow site. No appointment is required although you may wish to let the office know ahead of time, so that a time slot can be arranged.

As a Catholic school we recognise that parents are the first educators of the child, and we value your support immensely. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the school - I look forward to meeting you over the coming weeks at our upcoming events.

God bless.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn Laws". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carolyn Laws
Headteacher