

# Our Lady's Catholic College

Learn, live, love together in a caring Catholic community



11<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear parents / carers

We have now completed our first five weeks in school and have been very busy already. As you are aware, Ofsted inspectors visited in September and they wanted me to pass on their thanks to those who completed surveys. We have not yet received the report but will send it to you as soon as we are able to. We have also hosted a very successful and well attended Open Evening, had school photographs taken and finally our school trips have begun again including a residential to Castlerigg which has started today; it is wonderful to start to get back to some degree of normality

As predicted the numbers of Covid cases in school are rising. Please follow the current advice that if your child has any of the main three symptoms of a cough, a high temperature or loss of taste/smell please take them for a PCR test as soon as possible. However, if your child is feeling unwell (sick, sore throat, a cough), please keep them off school and book a PCR test. Increasingly these are the symptoms being experienced by those who have tested positive. Please do not rely on a Lateral Flow test if they are unwell as they are not as sensitive as PCR tests.

If cases continue to rise, we may have to reintroduce the expectation that pupils wear masks in corridors and classrooms. I want to assure you that classrooms are ventilated and pupils are still encouraged to sanitise their hands.

The weather has been particularly inclement in recent weeks. We ask that you do not let your children come to school early as they will be outside and we encourage pupils to wear coats and bring umbrellas. We do understand that pupils who travel further to school may have to arrive early and we are putting in place a procedure where those pupils will have a pass and be able to be in school, supervised by a member of staff. Please contact your child's PSO if your child has no alternative but to arrive early to school.

The school council came to me with the proposal that pupils wear PE kit to school on days when they have PE lessons, rather than having to change into their PE kit. They gave me valid reasons for this and so I allowed them to conduct a vote. The significant majority wanted this to be the arrangement for PE days. For this to be introduced we would need to implement an addition to the uniform of a tracksuit as the PE kit will not keep them warm for most months of the year. Staff are currently researching this and the cost and we will consult with parents in the near future.

We understand that parents need to contact school for a variety of reasons and that at times parents may feel frustrated that they are not able to speak to someone immediately. I must remind you that whilst restrictions have been lifted around Covid we are still working to try and address issues that the pandemic has caused and are still dealing with cases in school. Below is the link to the school's Parental Code of Conduct and would ask that you read it and abide by the expectations set out.

[07EBD6780689FE0D95A4D646B41E8AE1 \(1\).pdf](#)

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Headteacher  
Helen Seddon BSc Hons



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We are currently looking to appoint a Parent Governor. I would encourage you all to consider this.

Governors do not need educational expertise but do need to be committed to our school, willing to ask questions and act as a critical friend. They also need to be able to work as an enthusiastic member of the governing body team.

You do not need specialist knowledge or training to become a governor. It is your lay and community experiences that our governing body requires. Realistically, as a school governor, you will need to attend one full governing body meeting each term. You will also be asked to serve on at least one committee which will probably meet once or occasionally twice a term. So that is about three meetings per term.

You will need to get to know our school well preferably by visiting when the school is in session and the pupils are in school. However, this may not always be possible and some governors keep in touch with school life through after-school events.

If you are there interested, the application process is via an online form on the school website. Parents can self-nominate. There will then be an election and all parents will be eligible to vote for their choice. Further information and the form can be found on our website.

<https://www.olcc.lancs.sch.uk/page/?title=Parent+Governor+Election+October+2021+%2D+Notice+of+Election+and+Further+Information&pid=155>

<https://www.olcc.lancs.sch.uk/form/?pid=13&form=91>

We also have a vacancy for a Foundation Governor. These governors have to be over 18 years old and a practising Catholic. If you are interested in this role please contact Katy Walker by email. [k.walker@olcc.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:k.walker@olcc.lancs.sch.uk)

A reminder that all term dates, uniform expectations, our curriculum and much more are on our website. We are planning to update our website in the near future but will notify you of any changes. [www.olcc.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.olcc.lancs.sch.uk)  
Term finishes on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 3pm and pupils return to school on **Tuesday 2nd November**.  
It will be a week B.

Thank you for all your support so far this term.

Helen Seddon

Headteacher

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