



2nd November 2020

Return to Autumn Term and Latest Updates

Dear Parents, Carers and all students,

I do hope this letter find you and your family safe and well. This letter is to update you in response to the New National Restrictions from 5th November 2020, which can also be found with this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november>:

The Government has said: they 'will continue to prioritise the wellbeing and long-term futures of our young people and will not be closing schools, colleges or universities. It remains very important for children and young people to attend, to support their wellbeing and education and help working parents and guardians. Senior clinicians still advise that school is the best place for children to be, and so they should continue to go to school. Schools have implemented a range of protective measures to make them safe.

The Prime Minister and Education Secretary have been clear that exams will go ahead next summer, as they are the fairest and most accurate way to measure a pupil's attainment. We therefore need to keep schools and colleges open so that children are able to keep progressing towards exams and the next stage of education or employment. Students now have more time to prepare for their exams next year, as most AS, A levels and GCSEs will be held 3 weeks later to help address the disruption caused by the pandemic.'

This information should also be read with the latest guidance from the Department for Education: 'What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges in the autumn term.'

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

At Notre Dame Catholic Sixth Form College we have implemented all of the guidance as set out by the Department of Education. In addition, we have made it mandatory for all staff and students to wear a face covering when using the college corridors or when queuing for lunch. The College canteen will be closed for morning break from Thursday 5th November. There will also be restrictions at lunch time.

Please read the following rules carefully.

ALL STUDENTS MUST ADHERE TO THE FOLLOWING RULES:

It is imperative that you follow our guidance completely. Any student who does not, is in breach of our Behaviour Policy and could risk their place at College.

Students should at all times either be:

- in class,
- eating lunch in the designated areas,
- working in an independent study area: Main Hall, Library, IT suite, Upper and Lower Study Areas.
- outside/off site.

There must be no congregating on the college site at any time. Students must socially distance wherever possible at all times.

Prevention Measures. Students must:

- Use the sanitisers at the entry and exit to every building and on entry to each classroom.
- Maintain social distancing from teachers and staff at all times.
- Follow the one-way system for each building and for around site, see attached guide.
- Wear a face covering on corridors and areas described as communal.
- Only arrive in time for your very first lesson of the day
- If you arrive early you must be off site or in an independent learning area, such as the library, IT suites or the learning bays set out in the main hall.
- Do not arrive on College site and expect to socialise in small groups as you have done previously.
- From Thursday 5th November the canteen will be closed for morning break.
- You must remain in your classroom for a morning break on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.
- Morning breaks on Monday and Friday must be taken immediately outside the building you are in or in the classroom where your 11.15am lesson will.
- Please leave the College site at the end of each day after your final lesson OR use an independent study area.

LUNCH

- There are three places to get food for lunch: The main refectory, the sandwich shop in St Joseph's Court and the new Concession shop downstairs in the Lower Study Area.
- These will all be open, from approximately 11.30 – 2pm but can only accommodate a small number of students socially distanced at any one time. Your lunch time opportunity will therefore be staggered and you will be expected to vacate the refectory area as soon as possible.
- Only lunch purchased from the canteen or home provided lunches can be eaten in the refectory/upper study area.

Please also be aware that these plans have to be flexible and responsiveness to both a local context and any new guidance from the Department of Education or the Government Department of Health. If I need to make any changes this will be communicated as quickly as possible through email or text and also put onto our website. Please check your College emails and website regularly.

The guidance is clear that prevention is of paramount importance and places responsibilities on the College to ensure that:

1. Contact is minimised with individuals who are unwell with coronavirus or its symptoms.
2. Hand cleaning takes place more regularly than usual.
3. We ensure good respiratory hygiene and promote the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
4. We introduce enhanced cleaning of the site, especially frequently touched surfaces.
5. We minimise the contacts and mixing between people and that social distancing is maintained.

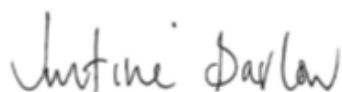
Further support for your studies:

- The hall and both Upper Study area and Lower Study Area is set out to enable distanced independent study to take place. You may wish to bring your own device to help you study.
- The library and IT suites are available for independent study.

Parents and carers can contact us at enquires@notredamecoll.ac.uk If you have any further questions or concerns. Students can speak with their Achievement Tutor or teachers.

Thank you for your continued support

Yours sincerely



Mrs J Barlow
PRINCIPAL