



### St. Joseph's RC Middle School

Highford Lane, Hexham, Northumberland, NE46 2DD

☐01434 605124

e-mail: [admin@hexhamstjosephs.uk](mailto:admin@hexhamstjosephs.uk) (general enquiries)

[parentcontact@hexhamstjosephs.uk](mailto:parentcontact@hexhamstjosephs.uk) (confidential pupil information/enquiries)

Website: [www.hexhamstjosephs.uk](http://www.hexhamstjosephs.uk)

**Executive Headteacher: Mr Paul Naughton**

30<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

On the Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> of October we received a number of recommendations from NCC as a result of positive cases of COVID-19 rising across the county.

Given the local and national situation, we have decided to temporarily reintroduce a number of measures that will hopefully prevent further spread of the virus in our community. We understand and recognise that you may find this concerning. We are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with the Public Health team to ensure we respond quickly and appropriately.

This letter is to inform you we are increasing our measures in the short term, to further minimise the risk of COVID transmission. From Monday, all staff and KS3 pupils will be required to wear masks / face coverings in communal areas, unless they are exempt. In addition to this we will continue to ask pupils who travel on school or public transport to wear face coverings.

The increased measures will be reviewed regularly and will include the postponement of assemblies and whole school events to an online format to reduce transmission. **We are also asking that all pupils continue to take a lateral flow test on the Sunday before returning to school. This should be repeated on a Wednesday.** Please note that students and staff who have tested positive within 90 days should not be encouraged to test unless they develop symptoms.

There will be no change to our extra-curricular programme. However, running club will not be moved to an indoor setting in the event of poor weather due to multiple year groups participating in this club. Choir is also undergoing a further risk assessment and more information regarding clubs will follow.

We will reduce mixing as far as possible between year groups and classes, but at the point of writing we aren't reintroducing the class 'bubble' system. We will be giving careful consideration to whole-school and year group events, including educational trips and visits as we commence the new half term. Sadly, there will be no face to face parental meetings until further notice and these will be replaced with an online format or telephone call. We are also limiting non-essential visitors to school until we see an improvement in COVID cases within Northumberland.

Classroom ventilation and hand cleaning will continue as always and our Risk Assessment will be published on our website. As a school, we have our own Contingency Framework in place, and we will continue to closely monitor the number of cases and liaise with the local Public Health team.

Kind regards  
Paul Naughton