



Thornleigh Salesian College

Headteacher
Mrs A O'Callaghan

Sharples Park, Bolton, BL1 6PQ

Tel: 01204 301351
Fax: 01204 595351



Email: contact@thornleigh.bolton.sch.uk www.thornleigh.bolton.sch.uk

22nd October 2020

Ref: AOC/SH

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the end of what has been an extraordinary half term I wanted to write to you with an update on how the term is going.

We are happy with the extremely positive way that students have embraced our Covid adapted school. We know that this has meant lots of sacrifices and changes but we also know they have all been necessary in order to keep our community safe. Over the next half term we are also introducing more extra-curricular activities in order to give students as broad an experience as possible, these activities will always be in year group bubbles and all our Covid protocols will be adhered to. Now that students are back into the rhythm and routine of school, we will also be raising our expectations in terms of class and homework.

I know that the challenges of self-isolation have been difficult and that this has had an impact on many of your families. Our new track and trace protocols have helped us to reduce the number of children that are having to self-isolate. I must ask you to support us in this by not sending your child to school if they are unwell. By reducing the number of contacts that they have we also reduce the number who need to self-isolate following a positive case. If your child has any symptoms, however mild, then please access a test and inform school of the result as soon as possible. If your child becomes unwell whilst they are self-isolating, please still access a test and inform school if they test positive.

As you will be aware, Bolton is now in Tier 3- the very high alert level. Please make sure that your children are aware that they cannot mix with any other household outside of school either in homes or gardens. It is important that we all play our part in helping to reduce the spread of the virus. For further information please visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-covid-alert-levels-what-you-need-to-know#local-covid-alert-level-very-high>. May I ask for your support in ensuring that your child has a face covering for school every day - we do not have a limited supply in school but it is extremely costly to be having to provide hundreds each week.

We have worked through a number of solutions in terms of remote learning if your child has to work at home in order to provide as much curriculum continuity as possible. If your child has to work at home then the following arrangements will now be in place.

- If a teacher's full class is self-isolating, then the teacher will deliver a full 35 minute Zoom lesson to the class at home. Students will follow their normal timetable.
- If a teacher has a number of students in school and others are working at home, then they will provide a Zoom link to the lesson in school so that students can access the content of the lesson. In these circumstances, the teacher's microphone will be muted for the majority of the lesson and students at home will be able to access the slides and ask questions via the chat function. Please understand, that the teachers will be dealing with students in the room as well and they will not always be able to respond immediately to students on Zoom. However, we believe that by having access to the same work as students





Thornleigh Salesian College

Headteacher
Mrs A O'Callaghan

Sharples Park, Bolton, BL1 6PQ

Tel: 01204 301351
Fax: 01204 595351



Email: contact@thornleigh.bolton.sch.uk www.thornleigh.bolton.sch.uk

in school, there will be better continuity of learning. Staff will admit students from the waiting room within the first 10 minutes of the lesson.

- If a teacher is off school and able to teach from home, they will do so via Zoom.
- If a teacher is off school and unable to deliver the lesson, then work will be uploaded onto Google Classroom for students to complete independently.

Feedback from students who have been working at home this term is that it helps if they are wearing headphones for these lessons that are being delivered via Zoom.

If a Zoom link does not work, then students should access the work provided for that lesson on Google Classroom. This is a brand new system that we are all getting used to and I am hugely grateful to the staff for adapting how they work so radically to ensure that children working at home can have as much direct contact with teachers as possible. I am also very grateful to you as parents for your understanding and patience at this time. We are completely committed, with you, to ensuring that your child fulfils their potential this year.

We will of course continue to provide you with information about your child's progress throughout the academic year.

Can I once again thank you for your ongoing support this term. I hope that you and your family have a pleasant half term. The majority of students will return to school on Monday 2nd November. For any students who are self-isolating you will have been informed of their return date.

Mrs A O'Callaghan
Headteacher

