



*St. Mary's Christian Brothers' Grammar School*  
*Scoil Mhuire na mBráithre Críostaí*



147a Glen Road, Belfast, BT11 8NR    147a Bóthar an Ghleanna, Béal Feirste, BT11 8NR  
Telephone: (028) 9029 4000    Fax.: (028) 9029 4009  
Website: [www.stmaryscbgs.com](http://www.stmaryscbgs.com)

'Nurturing faith, promoting partnership, excelling in teaching and learning, creating a caring school community and inspiring transformational leadership.'

5<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we begin 2022 I want to wish you and your family good health and many blessings. You will be aware from my Christmas correspondence that school reopens for students on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022. As a result of staff absence during the current pandemic **Year 8, 9 and 10 pupils should remain at home until Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022.**

We have also been issued with further guidance from the Department of Education on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021. The letter referred to the Department of Health's revised guidance on:

**1 Self-isolation for close contacts**

**"Fully-vaccinated close contacts of a positive case will no longer be required to take a PCR test. They are instead advised to take a lateral flow device (LFD) test as soon as possible and continue to take daily lateral flow tests until the tenth day after the last date of contact with the positive case."**

**2 Pupils who have symptoms**

**"If pupils are symptomatic, they should follow health advice on testing and not come into school until cleared to do so.**

**3 Self-isolation when Positive for Covid-19**

**"The NI Executive has announced a change to the rules on self-isolation for positive cases, reducing the period from 10 days to seven, providing the individual has negative LFD results on both days 6 and 7 with tests taken 24 hours apart."**

**4 Lateral flow testing before returning to school**

**"As you will be aware levels of community transmission are very high, therefore ahead of the new term beginning next week, the Department has strongly urged all post-primary pupils to take a lateral flow test before returning to school."**



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**The following link provides further guidance on testing and self-isolation periods.**

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-testing>

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-self-isolating-and-close-contacts>

## **5 Face Coverings to be worn in school**

As has become normal practice in school **face coverings must be worn in the school building at all times**. We would be very grateful if your son could remember to have a few face masks in his school bag each day in order to help keep him and others in the school community safe.

Our aim is to for the school to remain open as normal for our boys, but this will be balanced carefully with the need to keep both students and staff safe. Your assistance in following the above guidance will help us to manage this together.

We fully recognise that we are starting 2022 under the continuing shadow of Covid-19 and with the many challenges this will bring to our students and you, their parents. Be assured, that staff in St. Mary's are here to support your son in his education.

Wishing you all a very happy, peaceful and safe New Year.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Siobhan Kelly  
Principal



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