



# St. Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy

*A Mercy Academy committed to excellence*

St. Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy, Thornhill Terrace, Sunderland SR2 7JN.  
Telephone 0191 565 8904 Email [enquiries@st-anthonys-academy.com](mailto:enquiries@st-anthonys-academy.com)  
[www.st-anthonys-academy.com](http://www.st-anthonys-academy.com) Twitter @st\_anthonys3



Mrs M. Shepherd  
Head Teacher  
B.Sc (Hons), M.A. (Ed), NPQH

Mrs M. Lanaghan  
Deputy Head Teacher  
B.Sc (Hons), NPQSL

Mr M. McDonagh  
Deputy Head Teacher  
B.Sc (Hons), M.Sc

Mrs F. Collins  
Senior Assistant Head Teacher  
B.Sc (Hons), NPQSL

18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I do hope that you, your family, and friends have a safe and happy Christmas break. Your daughters continue to be a credit to you coping with all the challenges which this year has brought. You will see many of the activities they have been involved in within your copy of "Spotlight" magazine, which has been posted to you, with our Christmas good wishes.

You will have heard the very recent news, late yesterday, regarding the start of term in January and the planned government mass testing programme in schools. The current information is as follows:

**Government announcement (17.12.20) regarding the start of term January 2021 and the government plans for mass testing in schools from January 2021.**

As decided by the Government, the return to school at the start of the Spring Term will be staggered and there are government plans for mass testing within schools.

We have yet to receive information regarding how mass testing will be organised within schools and we need to plan for this to happen in a safe and orderly manner, once we receive this information from the relevant authorities. We will share the plans with you when these have been finalised. You will also be required to complete a "permission" pro-forma, if you wish your child to be tested.

The arrangements for the start of term are as follows:

**1. Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 will be a staff training day.** Consequently, the training day which had been planned for 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021 has been cancelled. School will not be open to any students. This is to enable staff to plan for the mass testing arrangements, which will have been shared by the relevant government bodies by this point. Apologies for any inconvenience caused to parents.





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**2. Students in Year 11 and Year 13 only will return to school on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021.**

**3. Students in years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will work from home from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and return to school on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021. The work for these year groups w/b Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January-Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January will be available on the Frog Learning Platform and via "Teams".**

**4. The exception to category 3. are those pupils who are vulnerable groups and/or the children of key workers. These groups will attend school from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021.**

If you are a parent of a vulnerable child then your child will return to school on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021. We will be expecting them and if they are absent at any point during the period Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup>- Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January then please contact the school to inform us of the reason for their absence, as normal.

If you are a key worker and require a place for your child w/b Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January - Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January then please email the academy, prior to the start of term, on [enquiries@st-anthonys-academy.com](mailto:enquiries@st-anthonys-academy.com) with the name and year group of your child and with up-to-date proof of your key worker status e.g. a photograph of a work identification badge or a letter from your employer.

**5. The other exception to category 3 is any young person, in Y10 or Y12, who may have an external examination Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January - Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January. They should attend school to sit the external examination in line with their examination timetable.**

Thank you for your support this term. If the above arrangements do change, for whatever reason during the course of the Christmas break, we will inform you by the usual methods:

- Website [www.st-anthonys-academy.com](http://www.st-anthonys-academy.com)
- Twitter @St\_Anthonys3 and @AAASixthForm (please follow us)
- "School Comms" messaging
- 

Yours sincerely,

*M. Shepherd.*

Mrs M. Shepherd  
Headteacher





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## **APPENDIX - definition of vulnerable children and key worker children.**

These groups are defined by the government as follows:

### **A. Vulnerable children** and young people include those who:

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
  - children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services
  - adopted children, those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')
  - those living in temporary accommodation, those who are young carers
  - those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
  - others at the provider and local authority's discretion

If you are a parent of a vulnerable child then our child will return to school on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021. We will be expecting them. If they are absent at any point during the period Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup>- Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January then please contact the school to inform us of the reason for their absence, as usual.

### **B. Key workers.**

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) response include those who work in health and social care and in the following key sectors:

#### **Health and social care**

This includes, but is not limited to, doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff.

#### **Education and childcare**

This includes:

- childcare
- support and teaching staff
- social workers







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## Key public services

This includes:

- those essential to the running of the justice system
- religious staff
- charities and workers delivering key frontline services
- those responsible for the management of the deceased
- journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting

## Local and national government

This only includes:

- those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the coronavirus (COVID-19) response
- or delivering essential public services, such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies

## Food and other necessary goods

This includes those involved in food:

- production
- processing
- distribution
- sale and delivery
- as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines)

## Public safety and national security

This includes:

- police and support staff
- Ministry of Defence civilians
- contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak)
- fire and rescue service employees (including support staff)
- National Crime Agency staff
- those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas





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## Transport

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

## Utilities, communication and financial services

This includes:

- staff needed for essential financial services provision
- the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage)
- information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response
- key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services)
- postal services and delivery
- payments providers
- waste disposal sectors

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