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Update to Parents and Carers 22 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Return to School in January

While we await further clarification from the Scottish Government, I wanted to get in touch with you before the school finishes today for the Christmas break with some information about the return of your child in the New Year.

You will be aware that the Scottish Government announced at the weekend that the school Christmas holidays will be extended to Monday 11 January 2021 for all pupils.

In addition, all secondary schools will be open from Wednesday 6 until Friday 8 January for children of key workers and vulnerable families when childcare support will be provided.

I have written today to the parents of identified vulnerable groups of children who attend Cardinal Newman High School, informing them of the plans for their children from 6 January onwards. The local authority has also written to all parents who are employed as key workers setting out what steps they should take before January 6 2021.

All children and young people return to learning on Monday 11 January 2021 when online learning will be in place at least until 18 January 2021.

Online Learning

Subject teachers and principal teachers of pupil support will be in direct contact with pupils who will be able to access online learning through GLOW and Teams. Online materials will be regularly updated and pupils will be able to engage with their teachers who will provide feedback on performance and information on next steps. We will write to you again with specific information on the Cardinal Newman High School online learning offer before pupils return on the 11 January 2021.

Senior Phase Evidence Gathering 7-18 December 2021

Feedback on performance and next steps will be shared with young people week beginning Monday 11 January 2021.

Higher and Advanced Higher Examination Diet

On 8 December, the Deputy First Minister announced that there will be no external assessment of Higher and Advanced Higher courses in session 2020–21, and that the 2021 exam diet has been cancelled. We know that parents, and carers will want to know what this means for them and for their children.

We have met with young people in S5 and S6 and shared the information we currently have with them:



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WORK
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VISIT

- Subject-specific guidance for teachers will be published by SQA for all subjects, on a rolling basis, throughout January 2021. This will advise on the types of evidence that can be used to determine a provisional result for each young person.
- The focus remains on the quality of evidence, rather than the quantity. Where possible, the guidance will specify key pieces of evidence that have good predictive value, for each subject.
- We will update young people with the most recent information and advice as it arrives in school from SQA.

PE Kit and School Uniform

Young people can continue to come to school in their kit on PE days. Please make sure the clothing is suitably warm if the weather is cold. School uniform should be worn on all other days. If the weather is too bad for outdoor PE, young people will do indoor health and wellbeing activities.

Faith Mission of our School

All S1 pupils have now visited the Oratory as part of learning about belonging to a Catholic school community. They have been reflecting on the importance and role of this sacred space within our school. Each class received a visit from our Chaplain, Fr. Paul Denney who explained the significance of the Mass and how best to actively participate during Mass. All S1 classes celebrated a Class Mass in the Oratory where pupils served Mass and lead the liturgy.

S1 pupils of Holy Family, St. Gerard's & Sacred Heart parishes are being supported in the next stage of their faith journey as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2021. S1 pupils from Holy Family parish will receive the sacrament on 12th January.

All S2 classes had a visit from Fr. Paul as part of their learning about Sacraments of Vocation. Pupils enjoyed hearing about Fr. Paul's own vocation to the Priesthood and asked some great questions to deepen their understanding.

Reconciliation: All S1 and S3 pupils received the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent. This will be extended to pupils of other year groups during the season of Lent

Pupil Faith Leadership has grown from strength to strength this session with 43 S6 Caritas pupils successfully leading the school community in various ministries, setting an excellent example to younger pupils. The Caritas pupils have:

- Represented the school by serving and leading the liturgy during the Patronal Feast Day Mass celebrated By Bishop Toal in October.
- Planned and lead the whole school daily morning prayers ensuring these reflect the Liturgical Year of the Church.
- Prepared November prayer cards to give younger pupils an opportunity to reflect on and pray for deceased family and friends during the Month of the Holy Souls.
- Lead younger pupils in a sponsored walk in aid of St. Andrew's Hospice
- Prepared the school to visibly reflect the changing liturgical seasons, most notably in by assembling and Christmas Tree & Nativity scene and also preparing the Advent Wreath in the Oratory.
- Organised a successful Advent Appeal for RE classes, which raised over £500 which will benefit various good causes, including the Holy Family Food Bank Appeal which pupils shopped for with some of these proceeds.
- Lead staff in Advent prayers in our Oratory each week of Advent.

Hospitality

This year in Snapdragon Junior Hospitality Kitchen and Restaurant has been another eventful one with some fantastic events covered by our SVQ L2 pupils who have shown a great attitude to work and have gone above and beyond in their practical skills catering for more than 25 customers each Friday producing such great menu items as; Chicken Masala and homemade Naan, Mushroom Gyoza's, Melon and Basil Ice and Handmade cheese stuffed burgers.

However this was all topped off with 52 servings of their fantastic "Over the moon" Christmas themed menu complete with Turkey, Bacon and stuffing presents and Chocolate and Biscoff 'Moon Cakes' the class has shown that they can rise

to challenge, work professionally as a team and deliver complex menu's to a tight time deadline! **Well done class of 2020-2021.**

UCAS

The majority of students in S5 and S6 who are applying to university have now submitted their applications to UCAS. Universities will start sending offers to students between now and the end of April. Students should wait until all offers are received before accepting or rejecting offers.

We will hold a session in early March for all students to support them in applying to the Student Award Agency Scotland for fee payment and financial support.

College Courses

Applications for Further Education colleges such as New College Lanarkshire and Glasgow City Colleges will open in mid-January. Students will be informed when applications open and parents will be notified through text message/email and the school twitter account.

School Activities / Twitter Account

I know you are kept up to date with the million and one things that happen here in school on a daily basis via our busy Twitter accounts. My thanks to everyone involved and I hope you enjoy reading about our activities and are as proud as I am of everything the young people and the teachers of Cardinal Newman High School do as part of the teaching and learning but also to support a whole range of causes and extracurricular events.

I would like to thank you for all of your support since we arrived back in August. Although it has been more difficult than usual this session I am confident that we are well placed for whatever might come our way in the New Year. Please be assured that we will continue to make the school as safe as possible for your child and that we will do everything we can to support your child to the very best of our collective abilities through the months ahead.

I wish you and all your loved ones a happy Christmas. I hope 2021 brings all of you much health, happiness and peace.

With every best wish

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Smith', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mr Robert Smith
Acting Head Teacher