

# St. Bernard's High School

A CATHOLIC ACADEMY FOR ARTS AND SCIENCE



Milton Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex SS0 7JS

T 01702 343583 F 01702 390201

W [www.stbernardswestcliff.org.uk](http://www.stbernardswestcliff.org.uk)

Head Teacher: Mr A Sharpe, BA (Hons), M Mus, M Ed, NPQH

AGS / zmb

20<sup>th</sup> August 2021

Dear parents and carers,

As the new term approaches, it is possible to give you some further details on the arrangements for the start of the new academic year in September. As always, these remain subject to changes in government guidance.

Please remember that the school's dining room now operates on a cashless system, and parents will need to top up their child's catering account via ParentPay.

We ask all parents of children in Years 8-13 to ensure that students have conducted a Covid19 test at home in the two days before their scheduled return, and that students are not sent to school if they test positive or exhibit Covid-like symptoms.

Between Monday 6<sup>th</sup> and Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September, all students with the necessary parental permission will be tested on two occasions for Covid19; these tests will take place during the school day, at the university of Essex facilities close to the school site. They will be escorted to and from the test centre by school staff.

It is not possible to test any year group on their first day in school, as parental permission slips need to be returned. Parents will receive a permission slip just before the testing takes place, and a 100% return is necessary, please, whether permission is given or not. Students without permission will still have to go to the test centre with the rest of their class, but will not be tested.

We would advise students to wear a waterproof jacket for the visit to the test centre, as the weather can be inclement in September, and it can be helpful to take a small snack in case the testing takes longer than planned.

## Key Dates

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September:** Our new Year 12 students will register for the Sixth Form. They will need to arrive at school through Reception at 1.30pm for their enrolment on this day.

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September:** Our new Year 7 and 12 students start the term. The gates will open from 8.30am, and students must be on site no later than 8.45am.

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September:** From this date onwards, the gates will open from 8.00am, and students must be on site no later than 8.45am.

Year 11 and Year 13 start the term on this date. Year 11 will gather on arrival in BH1 ready for their opening assembly at 8.45am; Year 7 students have access to the Dining Hall and Library from 8.00am, and then should move to their form rooms between 8.30am and 8.45am.

Year 12 and then Year 7 will have their first Covid19 test on this day; it is possible that a small number of Year 7 students may return to school at 3.40pm rather than 3.30pm on this day only, if the tests run late.

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September:** Year 10 start the term, and on arrival should gather in BH1 ready for their opening assembly at 8.45am.

Year 7 and 11 students may use the Dining Hall and library from 8.00am, and their form rooms will be available from 8.30am. Years 11 and 13 will have their first Covid19 test on this day.

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September:** Year 8 start the term, and on arrival should gather in BH1 ready for their opening assembly at 8.45am.

Year 7, 10 and 11 students may use the Dining Hall and Library from 8.00am, and their form rooms will be available from 8.30am. Year 10 students will have their first Covid19 test on this day.

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September:** Year 7 and some Year 8 students will have a Covid19 test on this day.

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September:** Year 9 start the term, and on arrival should gather in BH1 ready for their opening assembly at 8.45am.

All other year groups may use the Dining Hall and Library from 8.00am, and their form rooms will be available from 8.30am. Year 11 and some Year 8 students will have a Covid19 test on this day. Year 9 students will have their Covid19 test in the following week.

This is my final email to you as Headteacher, and I would like to thank you for the kind words and gifts received to mark my retirement. It has been a privilege to lead St Bernard's, and I wish you and your family every success in the future. Any further changes will be sent out by Mrs Moise-Dixon, as she prepares the school for the new school year.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AS', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

**Mr A Sharpe**  
**Head Teacher**