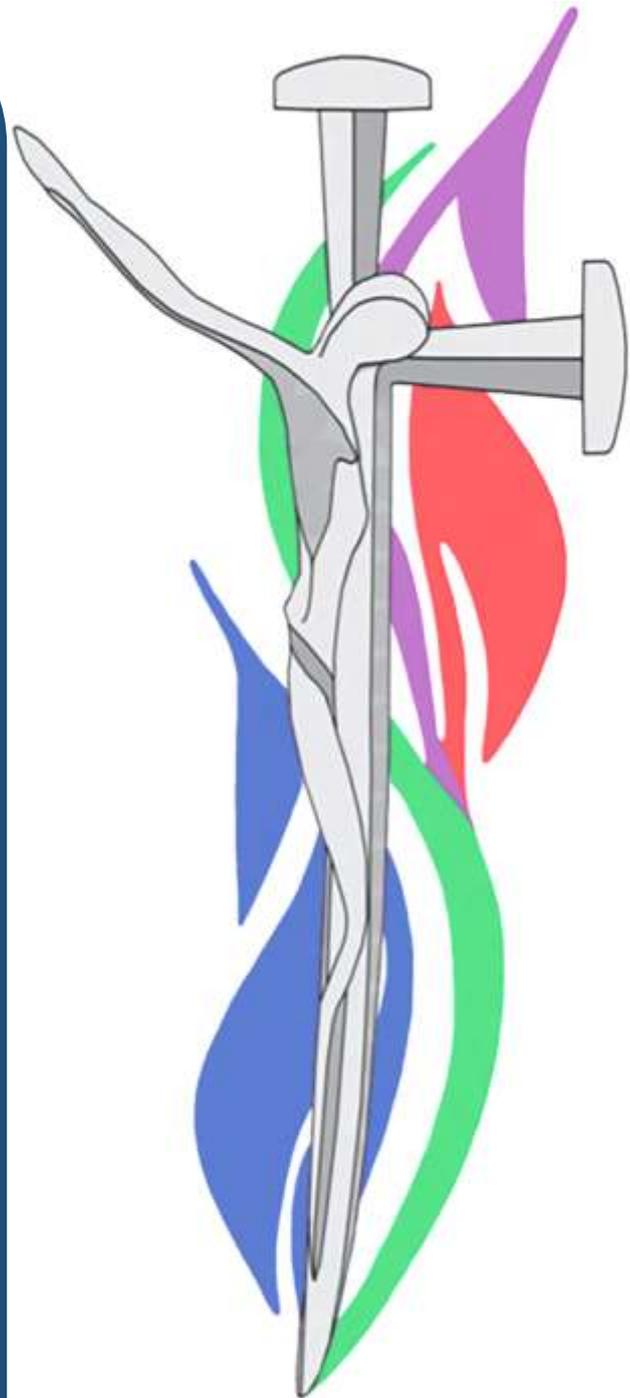


Message from the Chair of the Board of Directors

As the academic year comes to a close it is an opportunity to reflect on the last twelve months and our first year as the Holy Cross Catholic Multi Academy Company (MAC). It is not what we were expecting when we started on our journey back in September and this year will be remembered mostly for the effects of COVID-19 on our schools. COVID-19 has forced us to make many changes since 20 March and we have had to adapt new ways of working.

However it is important that we remember all the wonderful things that have happened and all that has been achieved in often challenging circumstances. Despite everything it has been a year filled with new learning experiences and many accomplishments in academic achievements, sports and cultural aspects. It is disappointing that our pupils have not been able to show off their talents to the full or experienced some of the wider curriculum to the full. We need to recognise all the good work that was and is taking place but now in a different format with the use of ICT coming to the fore in delivering home learning. Lots of the plans have had to be put on hold and we will pick them up again in the new academic year.

Staff in a variety of roles across our MAC have shown amazing commitment and dedication to our children and we have appreciated the tremendous support of our parents and carers. A **Big Thank You** to all our parents and carers, to all our staff and especially to the Headteachers and senior leadership teams and the MAC Central Team for all they have done in leading us through this period.



Holy Cross of Jesus

Be Our Hope

Message from the Chair of the Board of Directors *cont....*

Many of life's normal pursuits have been suspended, this new 'normal' is taking time for us all to adjust to and as new guidance from the Government appears we are working hard to ensure a return to learning in the safest possible way for everyone. I know this has been a difficult time and I am aware of the challenges of delivering education and support services within the schools considering the constraints and the measures that have had to be put in place, alongside considerations about staff's own health and that of their families. Remember you **all** have been and are Key Workers in all your different roles and our heartfelt thanks for all that you are doing in these unprecedented times.

I particularly continue to think of, and keep them in our prayers, those who are ill or have died recently, especially family members and friends and colleagues of those within our school communities.

The last day of school will certainly be different this year. For some students and staff walking away from school this year means they won't get the chance to say goodbye in the normal way to the people who have surrounded and supported them for many years. It's sad but hopefully they will be able to find other ways to celebrate and remember their school days.

I want to thank the students and their families who come to the end of their school journey this year, for being a part of our community and we wish you all the brightest of futures.

I also want to thank our staff leavers who have worked tirelessly to deliver education and support to our children and wish them the very best for the future.

Finally, I want to thank all our staff for all that you have done and are doing either directly or indirectly in supporting our children and the families of our school community. Please do keep safe, have a lovely summer break, when you can and I look forward to welcoming you back in the new academic year."

God Bless.

John Teahan, Chair

Holy Cross Catholic MAC

July 2020



Summer Term message from our Catholic Senior Executive Leader

Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the end of this extremely unusual academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to everyone in our school communities who have worked together in quite unbelievably challenging circumstances to support our young people.

We know this has been an extremely difficult and worrying time for our parents and carers. I would like to thank you all for the support you gave your children and our staff as we all tried to ensure that they were able to continue with their learning as best as possible whilst our schools were only open to vulnerable and key worker children. In circumstances which seemed almost to change daily, our overarching aim throughout has been to ensure that our children and young people, as well as our staff, were as safe as possible when with us

The end of the academic year is a time for reflection and review and I would be very grateful if parents would complete a short questionnaire to help inform future planning. The questionnaire should take no longer than 10 minutes to complete and will remain open until Wednesday 5th August. All responses will be confidential and the link to the questionnaire for your school is here:

<https://edurio.com/poll/Lo7zP2>

A huge thank you also to all our staff who have adapted so well to new ways of working and to the relentless Government publications that have had to be responded to daily. School staff have worked tirelessly to ensure that our schools have been as safe as possible for children and staff at all times. All our schools have been open since the start of lockdown, including throughout the holidays. We are particularly grateful to Headteachers and Senior Leaders who have been an active and visible presence in our schools throughout this challenging period.

At the end of the academic year we say goodbye to staff who are leaving us. We thank the staff for their contribution to our schools and their dedicated service to our communities and we wish them every success, good health and happiness in the future.



Thank you also to all our young people of whom we are so very proud. Since lockdown started we have missed their presence in our schools and the joy they bring. We are very much looking forward to their full return in September. Our aim now is to ensure that all our children can safely resume their education in September when the new school year begins.

For your information, the link to the DfE publication about “Guidance for full opening: schools” can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

Because our schools have been open throughout the lockdown period, we have implemented a rigorous programme of regular handwashing, social distancing, provision of relevant Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) where appropriate, and regular and intensive cleaning of communal areas and classrooms. This places us in a very strong position to confidently implement government requirements and manage the situation as safely as we possibly can. Individual schools will be in touch to explain their Covid arrangements and update you on the specific arrangements for your child/young person. For those who are entitled to free school meals, free school meal vouchers have been provided over the summer holiday period.

This way of working was new to us all and not something that we had prepared for and there are lots of things that we have all learnt over the last few weeks. However, I am sure that we all have been reminded that the most important priority in life is the health and wellbeing of our family above everything else!

We continue to pray for everyone who has been affected by this dreadful virus and remember in our prayers members of our community who are sick or have been recently bereaved.

We are very much looking forward to a new school year which will see the return of all our young people to our schools and we wish every success and happiness to Years 6, 11 and 13 as they all prepare for the next phase in their educational journey or the start of their employment.

Lastly, I wish you all a happy and safe summer holiday. I do hope that you will have the opportunity to experience and enjoy some of those social and leisure opportunities which provide you, your children and families with both pleasure and relaxation. And, of course, we hope that the British weather will bring at least some sunshine over the coming weeks.

Take care and stay safe!

Holy Cross of Jesus Be our Hope

Marina Kelly

Catholic Senior Executive Leader





Planning for September 2020

We have reviewed the Department for Education's latest guidance published on Thursday 2nd July which clarifies their expectation for schools to reopen fully to all pupils in the Autumn Term. The guidance highlights some key measures that must be implemented by schools to ensure the safety of all.

We appreciate that many of you will have questions about how this can be safely managed, and I want to reassure you that we are taking this responsibility very seriously. We will need to balance our aim of providing our children with a high quality, full curriculum entitlement with the need to maintain stringent controls in order to minimise the risk of transmission of COVID-19 within our school community.

There are a lot of logistical challenges involved and senior leaders are working hard on our initial planning. We are expecting further advice and guidance from the Government in mid August before we finalise the plans for the return of all children in September. We know that you will understand that we won't be able to provide you with the final details at this stage as we will need to undertake further detailed planning to ensure that we develop the safest plans for our children/students and staff once this guidance has been released.

However, we want to keep you informed and we hope that outlining our thinking will give you some reassurance about what September will look like. We are highly ambitious for all students and our objective is to keep them safe while enabling access to the full curriculum within a carefully managed environment.

The following steps identify our initial planning and timeline to ensure you are aware of our next steps.

By the end of term we will:

- Review and update our school reopening Risk Assessments to reflect changes in Government and Public Health England guidance and the need to open fully for pupils and staff
- Consult with staff and Trades Unions on the Risk Assessments and invite their feedback
- Respond to any questions raised by staff and their representatives
- Ensure that Directors are confident that a robust process has underpinned the development of the Risk Assessments and appropriate measures have been put in place to minimise the transmission of COVID-19 and protect pupils and staff.
- Publish draft risk assessments on school websites.



Week commencing the 17 August:

- Review the additional Government Guidance on September School opening that is due to be released on 11th August
- Amend Risk Assessments in line with the further guidance
- Complete the final plan for September re-opening and establish contingency plans to prepare us for a variety of different scenarios, including the need to deliver the curriculum remotely in the event of further local or national COVID-19 lockdowns.

Week commencing 24th August:

- Write to parents to advise them of the arrangements that we will be putting in place at each of our schools to enable the safe return of pupils and staff.

Week commencing 31st August

- We will use our planned INSET days on Tuesday 1st September in all schools and Wednesday 2nd September in most schools for staff training.
- On Thursday 3rd September we will be welcoming our pupils back into school on a phased basis.

All Holy Cross Catholic Schools have remained open during the COVID-19 lockdown for vulnerable and Key Worker children and more recently have opened to some additional year groups. During this period of time we have learnt a lot about how to manage the important controls which have been required by the Government and Public Health England to minimise infection transmission. In particular a reminder to parents and carers for September:

1. **Minimising contact** with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school.
2. **Cleaning hands** thoroughly more often than usual.
3. **Ensuring good respiratory hygiene** by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
4. **Introducing enhanced cleaning**, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach.

Our schools have shown that they have the capacity to operate within a controlled environment for a limited number of pupils and staff and the challenge now will be to ensure that we can continue to operate safely as we open fully to all pupils and staff.

Rigorous Risk Assessments underpin the detailed planning that is taking place now and will continue through the summer holiday period. These will be available to read in draft form on school web sites and will be finalised at the end of the summer holiday to reflect Government and Public Health England latest advice and guidance.





Holy Cross Catholic MAC

Keeping Our Children Safe

Safeguarding our children remains the responsibility of everyone, especially during these difficult times. If you have a safeguarding concern about a child and you feel a child is at immediate risk of significant harm, you can contact the:

MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) at 024 76 788 555 (or 024 76 832 222 for the out of hours emergency service).

The Family Hub is available to provide advice and support to families and can signpost families to lots of other helpful services.

Contact Details for Family Hubs:

School	Telephone No.	Email address
Bishop Ullathorne	02476 978 160	MosaicFamilyHub@coventry.gov.uk
Cardinal Newman	02476 788 444	PathwaysFamilyHub@coventry.gov.uk
Christ the King	02476 788 444	PathwaysFamilyHub@coventry.gov.uk
St Augustine's	02476 788 444	PathwaysFamilyHub@coventry.gov.uk
St Elizabeth's	02476 977 991	FamiliesForAllHub@coventry.gov.uk
St John Vianney	02476 978 160	MosaicFamilyHub@coventry.gov.uk
St Thomas More	02476 978 100	AspireFamilyHub@coventry.gov.uk

The School Nursing Service has a parent line than can be accessed via texting 07507 329 114. Please ensure you text this number and do not ring it.

Don't forget **Childline** as well. They can be contacted by children on 0800 111 111 and information can be found at <https://www.childline.org.uk/>



COVID-19



Protect yourself and others from getting sick

When coughing and sneezing, cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or a flexed elbow



Throw the tissue into a closed bin immediately after use



Clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or with soap and hot water for at least 20 seconds:

- After coughing or sneezing
- When caring for the sick
- Before, during and after preparing food
- Before eating
- After toilet use
- When hands are visibly dirty



Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth

