



Cardinal Hume Catholic School

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of the first half-term of 2021, I would like once again thank you for your ongoing support and congratulate our excellent students on their work ethic and levels of resilience during these uncertain times.

While much of our planning for future weeks and months is, inevitably, dependent on national guidance and the trends associated with Covid-19, I would like to outline some key information before the February break.

### February Half-Term

The school will be closed to pupils during half-term and remote lessons will not take place. This is to ensure our excellent pupils and their teachers get the break they need. The school office will be open for urgent enquiries and the school information email will be checked regularly. I encourage our students to take this opportunity to have a break from devices and reduce their screen time as much as possible.

### Test and Trace

If your child has been attending school, you will receive a text with information about how to contact the school in the event that they develop symptoms or test positive after the end of the school day on Friday 12th February.

### GCSE and A Level Examinations

We hope to have the outcome of the Ofqual consultation on the Summer 2021 examinations by the end of February. What is clear at this moment in time is that, while examinations will not take place in their usual form, assessment of student performance will take place. Therefore, I would like to reemphasise how important it is that students in examination year groups work hard, attend and engage. The work they are doing now is just as important as it would have been, had they been physically attending school. While we have seen excellent engagement from Sixth Form, we are noticing that, in recent weeks, attendance and engagement in Year 11 has been lower than in all other year groups. While the work of the majoring of pupils in Year 11 is superb, there is a significant minority who are causing concern. There will be a recorded briefing presentation for parents of Year 11 students in the first week back and you will receive a text with access details.



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## Reopening of Schools

The government roadmap for the easing of national restrictions is due to be outlined on Monday 22nd February, which we expect to include the plan for the reopening of schools from 8th March. It is too early to say what this reopening will look like, but we hope to provide you with information during the first week back after half-term.

You all remain in our thoughts and prayers.

Best wishes,

Mr. B. Robson  
Headteacher