



**MR MARTIN BONNER - BA (Hons); PGCE; M.A.Ed.**  
**Head Teacher**

Our Lady Immaculate Academies Trust Ltd: 09436283  
Diocese of Northampton

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

**Arrangements for next term, commencing Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

As you may have heard, arrangements for the beginning of next term have been changed at a national level and I have some important updates to share with you all.

Years 11, 12 and 13 should return to school on the Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January. The Year 11 mock exams and other exams planned to commence that week will go ahead as planned.

Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 are expected to engage in remote learning for the first week, commencing on the first day of term, Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January. However, children with additional needs, vulnerable children and the children of key workers are able to attend school.

You have no doubt also heard that schools will start to offer regular lateral flow testing from the start of the new term. All staff will be tested weekly and anyone, staff or students, who has been in close contact with a confirmed positive case will be able to continue to attend school but will be tested daily to ensure that they have not caught the virus.

Schools are also being asked to test everybody twice, as early as possible in the new term, just to check that we all begin the new year infection free and help control the spread of the virus. We will therefore require all students, including those who are remote learning, to attend for a test at some point in the first week. Specific times for test appointments will be sent out in January.

In order to administer these tests we do of course require parental permission. Please be assured it is nothing to worry about. The test is taken using a saliva sample and is not painful or unpleasant. All staff will have received training and all safety guidance will be followed. I urge you to give permission for your child to take part in the testing as this will allow us to help contain the spread within school and keep all of us, including families, safe.

We have set up an on-line survey to give consent for testing and this link also allows key workers to let us know if you will be sending your child into school for the first week.

Here is the link: <https://surveyhero.com/c/b73b4797>

It is very important that we continue to trace contacts of people who may have had close contact with anyone who receives a positive test result for Covid-19 into the Christmas period. If your child receives a positive test result up to Christmas Eve, please let the school know by emailing [head@stm.beds.sch.uk](mailto:head@stm.beds.sch.uk) We can then alert anybody who may be in danger and they can then avoid meeting with others, particularly elderly relatives.



**MR MARTIN BONNER - BA (Hons); PGCE; M.A.Ed.**  
**Head Teacher**

Our Lady Immaculate Academies Trust Ltd: 09436283  
Diocese of Northampton

We would normally end this term with a carol service at our local church, but of course that has not been possible this year. Instead our Lay Chaplain, Mrs Burgess, has produced a virtual advent service that was used in Form Periods today and I include a link here:

<https://vimeo.com/491088397/651fa340b3>

As we near the end of 2020, I think we can all agree it has been quite a year. We have had challenges to face as a country, within our families, and as a school community. Despite all that we have faced the school has remained a supportive and happy place to be and I thank you all for your support over the year.

I wish you all a blessed and peaceful Christmas

Yours faithfully,

Martin Bonner  
**Head Teacher**