



Ellesmere Port Catholic High School

Wk. 1 PARENT BULLETIN 1st Mar 2021

Our Vision...
Excellent teaching.

Our Vision...
Strong Catholic ethos.

Our Vision...
Exemplary behaviour and personal standards.

Our Vision...
Ensuring every child is known.



Our Vision...
At the heart of the community.

Our Vision...
High expectations of everyone.

Our Vision...
Excellent leadership at all levels.

Our Vision...
Keeping children safe in education.

Week at a glance...

	Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10	Yr 11	Yr 12	Yr 13
MON 1ST	Remote Learning <i>(Key Worker & Vulnerable Students only on site)</i>						
TUE 2ND	Remote Learning <i>(Key Worker & Vulnerable Students only on site)</i>						
WED 3RD	Remote Learning <i>(Key Worker & Vulnerable Students only on site)</i>						
THU 4TH	Remote Learning <i>(Key Worker & Vulnerable Students only on site)</i>						

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	Feel-good Thursday (1-3pm)	
FRI 5TH	Remote Learning <i>(Key Worker, Vulnerable Students & Year 12 & 13 on site)</i>	Lateral Flow Testing



Headteacher Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we start implementing plans for a phased return of students from Monday 8th March, I would just like to say thank you for all your support with home learning and for everything you have done to keep our school community safe.

There will be a staggered return of year groups from 8th March, full details of which are in the separate letter attached to this bulletin email. Please also see the image below.

If you have any queries or concerns, please email them to our main inbox admin@epchs.co.uk.

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Rules for schools in England

From 8 March



All pupils in all years can return to schools and colleges



Twice-weekly tests for secondary school and college pupils, initially on-site and then at home



Staff will also be tested regularly



Face coverings must be worn in secondary schools indoors, including classrooms, unless 2m social distancing is possible



Face coverings also recommended in early years and primary schools for staff and adult visitors where social distancing between adults is not possible



After school clubs and children's sport activities can resume

BBC

It looks set to be a sunny weekend and we are challenging our staff to walk 10,000 steps outside on both Saturday and Sunday. We hope it's something our parents and students will join in with too – just 15 minutes outside can improve wellbeing.

Have a lovely weekend whatever you decide to do, and take care.

Mrs Vile

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Family Prayer

God be with our family,
From the youngest to the oldest,
Lighting up our relationships,
Sowing grace into our troubles.

God be with our family,
Weaving love into our work,
Our rest, and our play.

Amen.

Family Love Is

by Michele Meleen

Like the sun rises
each morning and sets each night,
family love is.

lovetoknow.com

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Notifications

- **6th Form Taster day for Year 11**

On Friday March 5th there will be a virtual 6th form taster day. During that day Year 11 students will 'become' the 6th form and be able to experience 5 A-Level lessons of their choice. This is to enable them to have a greater understanding of what is taught before they come to make their final choices this summer. Students should think carefully about their choices for each period as there might be subjects that they already know they definitely want to take so could use this opportunity to try out those they have not studied before or just to confirm their decisions. In addition, in the 6th form section of the school's website are all the info sheets and subject videos that students can refer to if needed.

The full timetable is below - students on the google form should choose 1 subject per period.

Mrs Henderson

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Year 11 into 12 - Taster day Friday March 5th, 2021

<u>PERIOD 1</u>	<u>PERIOD 2</u>	<u>PERIOD 3</u>	<u>PERIOD 4</u>	<u>PERIOD 5</u>
PE (GTR)	Comp Sci (GBO)	Comp Sci (GBO)	Theology (LBA)	Physics (THI)
Chem (EBR)	Theology (LBA)	Spanish (RWA)	Physics (DWO)	English Lang (EWO)
Psych (LIR)	Drama (DKE)	French (LDR)	Psych (LIR)	Business Studies (FWI)
Maths (HSM)	English Lit (FRO)	Drama (DKE)	PE (MCA)	Sociology (SCO)
Geography (MCH)	Health and Social (TAE)	Biology (EKI)	Chem (LFO)	Maths (TLA)
Hist (LHE)	Sociology (SCO)	Health and Social (TAE)	Biology (KPD)	Art (THA)
English Lit/Lang (EWO) (discussion of each course separately)	Spanish (RWA)	Hist (LOA)	Art (LMO)	Geography (MCH)
		Business Studies (FWI)		

- Examinations**

On Monday 1st March Mrs Henderson will be speaking to all 6th form students about their return to school, the lateral flow testing that will take place and the recent guidance we have been issued from the government in regards to how A-Levels will be awarded this summer. It is really important that students attend. The session will start at 9am. A zoom link will be posted on the Year 12/13 Teams pages.

What you need to know about grades in 2021...

https://dfemedia.blog.gov.uk/2021/02/25/what-you-need-to-know-about-grades-in-2021/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

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GCSE, Vocational and A Level Results 2021

The DfE and Ofqual have now published the findings of the consultation that took place last month and we can provide more details on how results will be determined this year.

What happens next?

When students in Years 11 and 13 return to school they should continue to engage fully with their learning. This will enable teachers to draw on a range of evidence when assessing students. The deadline for submitting the Teacher Assessments to the exam boards is 18th June.

What evidence will be used?

The exam boards will provide optional 'mini exams' and provide training on how best to use these. We may use these alongside our own internal PPEs or other form of assessment such as coursework, classwork and homework or results of previous assessments. Students will only be assessed on content that they have covered.

How do we know the results will be fair?

All assessments submitted to the exam boards must be based on evidence produced by the students. The exam boards will provide training to teachers and heads of department and other senior leaders will oversee the awards. The exam boards will also be sampling evidence from schools to ensure that the results are fair and consistent.

When will results be published?

A level results will be published on Tuesday, 10th August. GCSE and Level 2 vocational results will be published on Thursday, 12th August.

Are we able to appeal?

Yes, if you believe that an error has been made then you should appeal to the school in the first instance. If you are unhappy with the outcome you may then appeal to the exam board who will adjudicate on the evidence provided. There will not be any cost involved.

Ofqual have provided the following infograph:

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How GCSEs, AS and A levels will be awarded in summer 2021



Ofqual/21/6751/2

Working out your grade	Evidence	Results and appeals
Graded by teacher judgement Not graded by an algorithm School and college assessments can continue You'll only be assessed on what you've been taught Your teacher will tell you what evidence is used to grade you Private candidates to work with a school, college or exam centre to provide evidence for them to be graded	Mocks, tests and work already done can be used as evidence Non-exam assessment should continue Non-exam assessments can be used as evidence even if incomplete Art & design grade based only on your portfolio Teachers can use question banks provided by exam boards if they want to Results will be based on completed and future work, so keep doing your best	Results days AS and A level 10 August GCSE 12 August If you're unhappy with your grade, you can appeal it. First step is to submit an appeal to your school or college. <p>You can find out more details from your school, college or exam board, or by visiting the Ofqual website</p> www.gov.uk/ofqual

Mr Laing

- **Catering Service**

Our breakfast club service will be available for students from the 8th March, this includes free breakfast items (such as toast and cereals). Lunch will be available from our canteen and new catering pods (situated on our playground areas).

Mr Jones

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- **The EPCHS Way**

To celebrate all the positives of what our students have achieved during lockdown we have created #theEPCHSway. This is an opportunity for you, as parents and guardian to share all the great ways in which your child has shown their excellent virtues through the pandemic.

Have they helped in the local community, shown a great balance in relation to their school work and wellbeing? Have they helped home school their younger siblings? Have they made a difference and made it count?

If you believe they have shown a positive personal development then please share it with us. All submissions will see the student entered into a prize draw for a £20 Amazon voucher. Our students deserve recognition for their successes and displays of positive virtues so please do share with us your thoughts via QR code link.



For further information please see the full details which can be found in the attached PDF.

Mr Hughes

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- **Mrs McHugh's Library News**

Our Star Readers over half term are: Achievement points have been awarded to:

Year 7: Kaysi Fissenden, Nathaniel Wiseman, Conor McCone, Charlie Jones

Year 8: Katie Jenkins, Martyna Karow, Adam Szewczyk, Liam Kenyon

Year 9: Mia Wildsmith, Oliver Stewart, Ella Ogle, Martin Stepien, John Nuttall

In this week's edition of Mrs McHugh's Library News, (which can be found in the student bulletin) students are being encouraged to read the novella *Metamorphosis*. As the protagonist of the tale wakes to find himself morphed into a hideous insect, students are being invited to either draw and annotate an imaginary insect or write a short horror story (maximum of 1000 words.) Students can find inspiration to create a bizarre insect by reading further books on myON. Please encourage your child to read with myON and enter the competition. Achievement Points will be awarded to all entries and a gift voucher and chocolate will be awarded to the winner! Further details can be found in the student bulletin. Please contact Mrs McHugh if you have any queries.

- **World Book Day - Thursday 4th March 2021**

World Book Day changes lives through a love of books and shared reading. Our mission is to promote reading for pleasure, offering every child and young person the opportunity to have a book of their own. Reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success – more than their family circumstances, their parents' educational background or their income. We want to see more children, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, with a life-long habit of reading for pleasure and the improved life chances this brings them.

Attached to this bulletin email is a £1 book token which can be swapped for a completely **FREE** World Book Day Book or they can get £1 off any book or audiobook costing £2.99 or more in bookshops and supermarkets. ***The token is valid up to the 28th of March only.***

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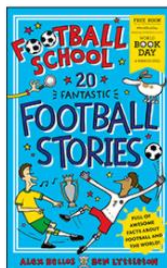
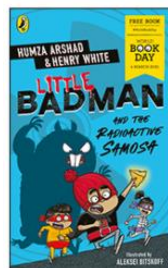
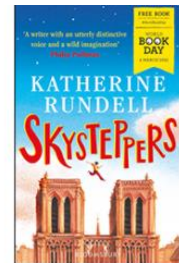
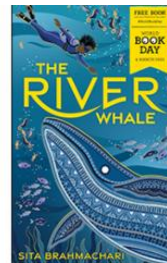
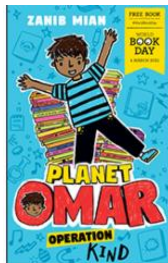
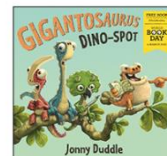
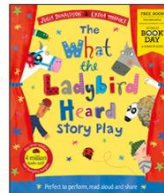
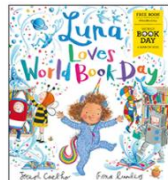
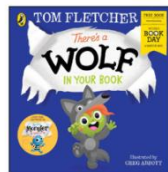
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Below is the list of books from which students can purchase a book for FREE using the £1 book token.

2021'S £1 BOOKS



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Mrs McHugh's top authors' recommendations from World Book Day 2021 are.....Derek Landy, Holly Jackson and Katherine Rundell!

- **SIXTH FORM INFORMATION & GUIDANCE**

NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK: 1st to 6th MARCH

Next week is '**National Careers Week**' where the organisers will be hosting a virtual careers fair. For more information go to <https://ncw2021.co.uk/>

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UNIFROG UK UNIVERSITY WEBINAR SERIES

**UK University
webinar series**

unifrog

Hear from leading institutions across the UK to find the right university for you

With 13 sessions from 1 to 11 March

Sign up for free at unifrog.org/webinars

Unifrog are hosting a series of free webinars from 1st - 11th March with 40+ UK Universities to help students to decide where to apply. Each webinar will focus on a different region in the UK. Students can sign up on the Webinars tile of their Unifrog homepage or by following this link www.unifrog.org/webinars

STEM SUMMER WORK EXPERIENCE AT DARESBURY LABORATORY

A reminder that the **Science and Technology Facilities Council at Daresbury Laboratory** are encouraging applications for their online **STEM** work experience programme. This is for students in **Years 10-12**. It will be for a duration of **one week in either July or August**. The programme meets relevant Gatsby benchmarks. Applications are now live. The **closing date for applications is 15th March**

You can find out more about the programme and apply via this link:

<https://stfc.ukri.org/about-us/work-with-us/work-experience/workexperienced/>

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UK UNIVERSITY AND APPRENTICESHIP SEARCH: VIRTUAL FAIR



The UK University & Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair is **taking place on 17th March 2021, 12pm-6pm**. This is a fantastic opportunity for students from Years 11, 12 and 13 to explore **over 100 universities, colleges and apprenticeship providers** from across the UK. It is an opportunity to engage with Admissions Officers and Student Ambassadors from Universities to have your questions answered. There will also be virtual campus tours and 10 live webinars taking place on a range of subjects from apprenticeships to writing a personal statement. For more information or to register go to www.ukunisearch.vfairs.com

UK UNIVERSITY AND APPRENTICESHIP SEARCH: WEBINAR WEDNESDAYS

These will be starting in **March** to support **Year 12s** as they begin to think about their next steps and how they can strengthen their university, college or apprenticeship applications. Each webinar will be led by experts from universities or apprenticeship providers and will feature a Q&A session.

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Date	Title	Link to register (if the link doesn't work from here cut and paste it into your browser)
3 rd March	Choosing your next steps: advice on how to start your research on universities and apprenticeships	https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_aVT7xbbDS6y4-cdqRrJYnQ
10 th March	Applying to university: advice and top tips for writing and structuring your personal statement	https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JIZEbqqIRkyEOajULsXUaA
24 th March	Applying to creative courses: insight in how to put together a portfolio for art and design courses	https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_nsnL9kbXTSyevvm4tpp9bA

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- The Pledge



SPRING INTO CAREERS 2ND MARCH 9AM – 11AM.

We are excited to announce that **Year 7 – 9** will be taking part in the Spring Festival 2021 organised by [The Pledge Partnership for Cheshire & Warrington](#) on **Tuesday 2nd March 9am – 11am.**

The purpose of this event is to help students to begin to explore career options by listening to and asking questions to a series of professionals talking about their role and how they got there. The event will be hosted on Learn Live, an online platform. Students can watch a series of videos and take part in our Live Chat function which is fully moderated allowing them to ask questions safely and directly to employers during the live event.

We ask that you help support your young person to be able to access this important event online, which is part of their curriculum and work will be set accordingly.

You must register prior to the event please click link below:

<https://learnliveuk.com/pledge-spring-into-careers/>

OR students need to simply click on this link at the time above to join the event, <https://learnliveuk.com/pledge-spring-into-careers/>

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- **An open letter from Education Secretary Gavin Williamson to parents, carers and guardians (23/02/21)**



Dear parents, carers and guardians,

I would like to thank you for the sacrifices you have made and, where possible, for keeping your children and young people at home during this period of national restrictions. I recognise that for many of you this will have been a very challenging time. I am writing to you to set out in greater detail the easing of restrictions on face-to-face teaching announced this week.

When the Prime Minister announced this lockdown, he was clear he would review the situation in mid-February. This was dependent upon the most vulnerable adults being offered the first dose of the vaccine by 15 February, meaning they should have developed some immunity from the virus by about three weeks later, that is by 8 March.

I am pleased to say that, thanks to the efforts of the NHS, volunteers and scientists, the government has achieved this target and, following an in-depth analysis of the virus prevalence data, and the data on NHS capacity, both suggest that infection rates have fallen across all ages, including in children and young people.

Yesterday, the Prime Minister set out the next phase of the government's response to coronavirus (COVID-19), including where restrictions on attendance at education settings can be lifted.

Return

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health has made clear that the overwhelming majority of children and young people still have no symptoms or very mild illness only. We also know that returning children to face to face teaching is vital for their educational progress, for their wellbeing, and for their wider development.

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If your child attends a primary, secondary, special or alternative provision school, college or further education setting they will return to their setting from 8 March – or if already attending, will be joined by their classmates. Secondary age students will be tested for Covid on their return, schools and colleges will organise the testing of groups of pupils during the first week. Since the start of term 4 million tests have been done in schools and weekly testing of pupils and staff will help keep everyone safe. If your child uses wraparound childcare, including childminders, these should also allow attendance for eligible children.

If your child attends an Early Years setting, these will continue to be open to all children, as they have throughout the period of national restrictions.

16- to 19-year olds (or 19- to 25-year olds with an EHCP) who attend further education settings will also undertake the majority of their planned hours on site.

Students in higher education undertaking practical or practice-based (including creative arts) courses who need access to specialist equipment and facilities will be able to recommence in-person teaching and learning from the 8 March. The Government will review, by the end of the Easter holidays, the options for timing of the return of remaining students. This review will take account of the latest data and will be a key part of the wider roadmap steps. Students and providers will be given a week's notice ahead of any further return.

Rapid testing

Since January, schools and colleges have been delivering rapid asymptomatic testing. Rapid testing remains an important part of the government's plan to suppress the virus, in education and childcare settings and across society. This sort of testing means that people who have COVID19 but do not have any symptoms of COVID 19, who might otherwise continue to attend educational settings, can be identified and self-isolate.

If your child has attended a secondary school or college through January, they may have been offered a test, and we are now asking that secondary schools and colleges offer tests for all students across the week of the 8 March as they return. If your child attends a primary school, they will not be offered a test upon return.

Twice-weekly asymptomatic testing is already available for the secondary school, most college, primary school, school-based nursery and maintained nursery school workforce, including support staff such as teaching assistants and those supporting with wraparound childcare.

Yesterday, we announced the further expansion of this asymptomatic testing programme, asking that all secondary age pupils and students in most colleges who consent will be offered three rapid

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tests at school or college in the first two weeks of their return three to five days apart. This will help them to get used to swabbing themselves for the tests. Schools and colleges will then provide students with two rapid tests to use each week at home. The home test kits come with clear instructions for use and how to report the results. All secondary and college staff will also be provided with home test kits to allow them to test twice a week at home. Testing is voluntary but we would encourage as many people as possible to take part to help reduce the prevalence of the virus. If your child attends a special school, where possible they will also be offered a test. Rapid testing is already in place for those arriving or staying at university.

We will be asking HE providers to offer two tests to all students eligible to attend their university or HE institution upon their return, and twice weekly asymptomatic testing to all students eligible to attend on-site, as well as providing testing for staff.

All staff at private, voluntary and independent nurseries will have access to tests to use twice weekly at home, building on the testing already available to maintained nursery schools and school-based nurseries. Childminders can continue to access community testing, and the Department continues to work with colleagues across government to review the testing approach available for childminders.

Safety measures

We have worked closely with Public Health England to develop and refresh the system of controls that schools and colleges already have in place to reduce the risk of transmission in education and childcare settings, based on scientific rationale. The system of controls supports schools and colleges to assess risk and implement measures to mitigate risk, including ventilating occupied spaces, introducing enhanced cleaning and minimising contact and mixing. We ask all pupils, students and staff to continue to do everything they can to adhere to these measures, because it is vital that they are implemented well and consistently.

In addition to the system of controls and the expanded testing programme set out above, in schools or colleges where pupils in year 7 and above are educated, we recommend that face coverings should be worn by staff and pupils where social distancing cannot easily be maintained when moving around the premises outside of classrooms or teaching spaces, such as in corridors and communal areas. In the same settings for a limited period, we also recommend the use of face coverings in classrooms and other teaching spaces, unless wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, for example in PE lessons, or for those who are exempt from wearing a face covering as per government guidance.

Children in primary schools do not need to wear a face covering.

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We have published further guidance for parents [here](#). We will be setting out further measures for immediate support to children, early years settings, schools, colleges and local authorities later this week. I am very pleased that we are able to return children and young people across England to their classrooms and colleges, to allow them to spend time with their friends and teachers and get back into the rhythms of the school or college year.

Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP
Secretary of State for Education

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