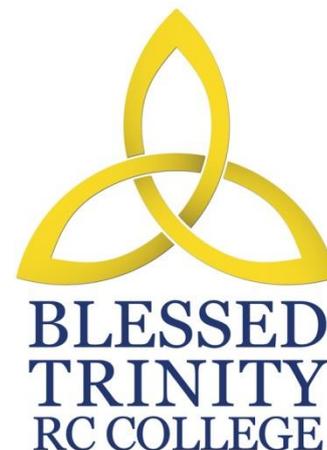


Ref: RV/hw

18 December 2020

Dear Parent



As we come to the end of this extra-ordinary term, I just wanted to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a happy and holy Christmas. I would like to thank every member of our community for their amazing and resilient efforts since our return in September.

We have worked extremely hard to do our best for your children. Thank you for your ongoing patience and the many expressions of support. Understandably, we have not always been able to deliver what we would have wanted due to staff absence and pupils' self- isolation. We have learned a great deal and for any shortcomings or mistakes we've made, I can only apologise. We are in the process of doubling our internet capacity so that should there be a need for further home-learning we will be able to deliver live lessons for any who need them.

We are planning to have all years in school in January but none of us would be surprised if there is further disruption due to the pandemic. I will be meeting with senior staff throughout the holidays to monitor levels of infection for staff and pupils and any ongoing consequent absences. As I write this letter, news is just coming in from the Department for Education regarding a possible phased return for different year groups to facilitate the rolling out of mass testing in schools. I will write to you again before the end of the holidays to communicate arrangements or any changes for our return.

Please see below the links to our wonderful Christmas Assemblies that children viewed in school on Wednesday. They are so lovely!:

Year 7 <https://youtu.be/SleVJR7QnwU>

Year 8 [https://youtu.be/UjFSC1Rif\\_w](https://youtu.be/UjFSC1Rif_w)

Year 9 <https://youtu.be/anEmPz0BFw>

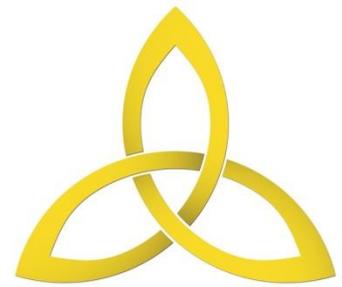
Year 10 <https://youtu.be/x5mlueH9oIA>

Year 11 <https://youtu.be/A4vU4oi-IXs>

For the first 6 days after teaching ends, if a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school has been asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the person may have been infectious whilst in school. As our school's last teaching day is on Friday 18 December 2020, there should be no pupil contact tracing asks beyond Thursday 24 December 2020. All positive test results received over the Christmas break should be reported to Dr Tuohy ([jtuohy@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:jtuohy@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk)).

As you may be aware, it was announced on 15 December 2020 that pupils and staff in schools will have access to rapid testing from January 2021 to help identify asymptomatic individuals. This will help reduce the spread of the virus in schools. Myself and the senior leadership team are now developing a protocol on how this will take place in Blessed Trinity and I will update you on this in the new year.

Headteacher: Mr R Varey BEd (Hons) MA  
Ormerod Road, Burnley BB10 3AA  
Tel: 01282 506200  
Email: [office@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:office@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk)



cont

**BLESSED  
TRINITY  
RC COLLEGE**

Could I ask you to urge your children to continue to fight this dreadful virus by following Government guidelines; increased hand sanitation, wearing face-masks where required and maintaining social distancing. Pupils who have symptoms of the virus should be tested and self-isolate for 10 days along with members of their household. By all of us following the rules we may return in the New Year with a reduced rate of infection.

Finally, I'd like to thank our amazing and optimistic pupils. They have carried on learning in the face of huge obstacles and pressures; their behaviour and attitudes have been fabulous. There is light at the end of this tunnel and hopefully we will be back to some normality before the end of the academic year.

Please remember the members of our community who are ill at this time, in your prayers. Stay safe. Merry Christmas to you all; may God bless you and your family with the joys of this wonderful season.

Yours sincerely

Richard Varey (Mr)  
Headteacher