



10th December 2021
lrr/bj/stjcovid19-10.12.21

Dear Parent/Carer

STUDENT COVID-19 TESTING AT ST JOHN'S MARLBOROUGH – 5TH JANUARY 2022

Further to my letter sent yesterday, I am writing to confirm the plans in place for the start of the new term on-site testing. GOVUK is expecting all secondary school settings to offer students one COVID-19 test at the very start of term. Further information is available [here](#). As a result this will require a delay to the start of term as set out below.

Date	Arrangements
Monday 3 rd January	Bank Holiday
Tuesday, 4 th January	Testing set-up and staff training – no students in school
Wednesday, 5 th January	08:30-15:15 Testing for all students (new consent required). Students attend for their test appointment only. No School Transport available.
Thursday, 6 th January	School term begins for all students – School Transport as normal.
Friday, 7 th January	School as normal

It is very important to take a Lateral Flow test before returning to school. We are able to offer one day of testing by appointment only on Wednesday, 5th January from 08:30 – 15:15 and the system will operate very similarly to the testing offered in September. If you are unable to make an appointment please complete a test at home and register the result on the [school website test reporting portal](#). Please isolate and follow the national guidance if a positive result is received. A supply of home test kits will be distributed to students before the end of term to allow testing over the holidays.

For each student taking part in the on-site testing a fresh consent is required. Once you have provided your consent you will receive a link to the appointment booking system. [Please consent here](#).

The system operates in a similar way to the Parents' Evening Booking System. Please log in as usual or follow the [instructions](#) if using for the first time, select the Covid testing link and then select 'all bays' to see all the available appointments. We would ask for your patience and understanding with the booking system as we anticipate a high level of demand. **The system will open for appointment bookings at 18:00 today, Friday, 10th December.** Should you have any problems with system access or queries, please contact Mrs K Mathieson via email at: kmathieson@stjohns.excalibur.org.uk.

As this is a highly logistical operation for us, students should not arrive too early for their test (we recommend 5 minutes before an appointment time) and they will need to leave the site immediately after having their test. Due to the timing of this event and possible inclement weather, please ensure your child is appropriately dressed as queuing will be outside the sports hall. We will be operating a strict one-way system through the testing area and face masks must be worn at all times (other than when testing) unless a medical exemption is in place. Hygiene arrangements will be clear. Participation in tests is designed to detect asymptomatic coronavirus cases. Anyone experiencing symptoms should stay at home and follow [government guidelines to self-isolate](#), even if they have had a recent negative lateral flow test.

The testing programme is being run by a large army of school staff. Without their support, we could not mobilise an operation of this scale in the window we have, and we must do everything we can to keep to the timescales. The team behind all of this understand the need to be both reassuring, understanding and efficient; please be assured, your son or daughter is in the safest of hands.

Please note your consent is for students to test themselves, there will be no assisted testing. Following their test your son/daughter will be sent home with their registration card including their unique barcode. You will have 24 hours to register them onto the Test and Track website. Please follow the guidance on the Registration Card or alternatively follow this link [Register a Test Result](#). We will contact you straight away if the result is positive and you will be required to follow [government guidelines to self-isolate](#) and seek a PCR test.

It remains vital you let the school know through the COVID-19 email - covid-19@stjohns.excalibur.org.uk if you have any pandemic related concerns that we need to be aware of and to report any test results on the [school website test reporting area](#).

With kindest regards.

Mr I Tucker
Principal

Principal: Mr I R Tucker BA (Hons), PGCE

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