



4<sup>th</sup> March 2021

lrr/jcl/stjcovid/04032021

Dear Parents and Carers

## ST JOHN'S MARLBOROUGH – COVID 19

This has been a momentous week and it has seen a response from so many people who are seriously invested in our amazing school. With around 88% of our student population volunteering to take part in the COVID-19 mass testing programme and so many members of staff and community volunteers helping to carefully take our students through their first test, we can now confidently state that we will be able to welcome **all** students back on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March**. This would not have been possible without the staggering resolve of everyone involved and the ability to get so many students into school this week for their test. The way they have conducted themselves has shown that there is great hope for the future – civility, politeness, eagerness and a willingness to follow the protocols without exception – it has been a privilege to be a part of this.

### Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021

School will re-open at the usual time for students. If your son or daughter has opted to test but has not been able to come in for their test, they need to head to the back of the Sports Hall on arrival where they will be guided through the testing centre and be able to take their test. All other students, please head to their first period lesson at 0830 as normal and once we have completed the tests on the students in the morning, we will begin the process of rounds two and three.

These are our expectations for students on their return to school:

- They must be in full school uniform unless they have PE where they will be allowed to arrive in their St John's PE kit as before.
- They must wear a mask when in indoor communal areas as they did before we broke up in December unless they have an agreed exemption.
- The Government have stated that students should wear masks in classrooms unless medically exempt. This is a strong recommendation and we will be treating it as such. We want students to be back in school with as little anxiety as possible and if you have any concerns about new expectations, we encourage you to get in touch with the relevant year group pastoral team as soon as possible.
- We will work quickly to ascertain what the gaps in learning might be but judging by the way students have engaged in their remote learning and interacted over the last couple of days, we hope to be able to move learning along efficiently. We will also spend large amounts of time reassuring students wherever necessary.
- If your son or daughter is in Year 11 or 13, time will be spent reassuring them all of plans for their assessments and the way in which teacher assessed grades will be awarded this summer.



## **Notification of confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases**

One of the key reasons that St John's had so little disruption before the lockdown was because of the way the systems around COVID-19 notifications were managed. I look forward to the day when I don't have to include this paragraph in my letters, but now is not the time to do that. It is really important that we keep this system running and it still remains vital you let the school know through the COVID-19 email - [covid-19@stjohns.excalibur.org.uk](mailto:covid-19@stjohns.excalibur.org.uk) if you have any pandemic related concerns we need to be aware of. This is particularly important if you need to take a test or have a positive case. We also continue to keep up to date our dedicated area on the school website which can be found at: <https://www.stjohns.excalibur.org.uk/latest-covid-19-information/>.

I am genuinely excited about the return of our students next week. We will do everything we can to make sure their school life resumes successfully and happily, and I look forward to the hum and buzz of St John's returning so soon.

With kind regards



**Mr I Tucker**  
**Principal**

