



6th November 2020

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Dear Parents and Carers

ST JOHN'S MARLBOROUGH – COVID 19

Welcome back to St John's and to the start of a new term. I felt it important to write to you again this week in light of the developments nationally and the responses from many of you that appreciate the regular updates.

We are off to a good start this term, with all year groups posting attendance figures that are above the national average for 'normal' times, let alone during the pandemic. We would like to thank both you and your children for supporting such a strong return and also for the approach they have had to all the safety measures that we have in place. Please can I urge you to remind your son or daughter that they need to be very mindful of the wider expectations now we are under national lockdown whilst out in the community. We remind them in school, and they walked out yesterday clearly showing awareness whilst making an effort to do the right thing in terms of social distancing, but a great deal is expected of them as we all know. We have decided to put staff as often as possible in the Duck's Meadow area to help remind students of social distancing as they leave school and we have been pleased with the way they respond. Similarly, we supervise the bus departures and arrivals as closely as we can ensuring students wear masks and socially distance. All of us working on these arrangements together appears to be making such a difference and the overwhelming majority of students follow the expectations. Please continue to add your support.

Friday 13th November

There is a slight change to this day to what has been advertised on the school calendar as a Staff Development day. For Year 11 and for a carefully selected group of Year 13 students only, we are holding a Revision Booster day.

Transport has been arranged for these students as a normal school day, and a morning snack will be provided. Students will be able to buy lunch and Year 11 will not be expected to wear school uniform. For all other students, I confirm this is a Staff Development day, so they do not need to attend school.

Facemasks

We made the decision to insist all eligible students and staff wore facemasks in corridors and indoor communal areas from our return in September so the Government's announcement this week has not been a change for us. **Please ensure that your son or daughter carries a spare mask with them at all times.** Only students with medical exemptions will be allowed to move around without a mask. If a student would prefer to wear a mask in lessons, that is absolutely fine, and we promote a culture where this is perfectly acceptable.

Dropping students off

It would be appreciated if parents and carers dropping students off were mindful of their whereabouts whether that be in the designated drop off areas in school or in the residential streets at the back of the school. Please do not block driveways or use them as turnaround points, thank you.



End of term 2 finishes at 1220

As we did last year, we are going to be finishing school at 1220 on Friday 18th December. There will be more to follow on this in terms of bus arrangements, but we aim to follow the same procedure we did last year with all buses except a small number of service buses taking students home at 1220.

Notification of confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases

I cannot emphasise enough that it is vital you let the school know through the COVID-19 email - 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/>.

We are fortunate enough to have an Academy Nurse at St John's who monitors these concerns regularly and the sooner we know, the sooner we can take action.

The Twitter feed continues to be a very useful way of staying in touch with what St John's are doing in the community as well, so please follow that and re-tweet if you wish.

As always, I hope that you and your family continue to keep safe.

With kindest regards



Mr I Tucker
Principal