



9th December 2021

lrr/jcl/stj-covid-09.12.2021

Dear Parents and Carers

ST JOHN'S MARLBOROUGH – START OF TERM 3

I am writing to you to update you on the arrangements for the start of Term 3 (January 2022). The Department for Education has told all schools to put in place a system which enables secondary age students to take a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test ahead of starting the new term. It is expected that there will be a staggered start for many schools nationally and the rationale behind this initiative is to try and put safeguards in place to reduce transmission of new Covid-19 variants, reduce pressure on the NHS and to remain committed to keeping our schools open. The purpose of this letter is to let you know how we intend to manage the student's return to St John's in January.

Tuesday 4th January – Students will not return as planned on this day and the school site will be set up to commence testing on Wednesday 5th. It is expected that setting up and testing will be supervised by school staff so there is no need for us to use volunteers this time.

Wednesday 5th January – Students will come into school by appointment (as previously), to take their LFD test between 0830 – 1515. It is anticipated that we will be able to run three shifts which will enable the majority of our students to come into school and take a test. Students will come into school for their allocated testing appointment, and they will then need to return home. We will contact you if the test is positive as we have done in previous testing events. Again, supervision will be with school staff.

Thursday 6th January – all students return for the start of the new term and arranged transport commences.

A letter enabling you to book your child's test appointment will be sent out soon, and please note that for those students who are unable to make an appointment, we will be providing them with a test to do at home. Students unable to make an appointment will receive their home test by Friday 17th December. It is important to note that there will not be any arranged bus transport on Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th January.

All students will be sent home with a new stock of LFD testing kits before the end of the term, and we will be strongly encouraging everyone to keep up with their testing over the festive break.

I appreciate that this change to the start of Term 3 has been communicated later than we would have wanted as we respond to the changes given us by GOVUK. It is hoped too that we can all respond appropriately to the current climate with regard to caution over COVID-19, and we remain determined to limit disruption to the students of St Johns.

Kind Regards

Mr I Tucker
Principal

