



12th March 2021
lrr/jcl/stjcovid/12032021

Dear Parents and Carers

ST JOHN'S MARLBOROUGH – COVID 19

By the time you read this letter, St John's will have been back for a full week and will have managed to provide over **4000** Lateral Flow Device tests for its students. The progress that has been made with this mammoth challenge means that by next Monday morning, we will have conducted all three tests with every student that has consented. Put simply, this could not have been achieved without the incredible community spirit that has come to the fore between school staff and our tireless band of volunteers. The collaboration between our Academy Nurse, Jackie Rowberry and our volunteer co-ordinator Graham Edmondson, has meant that we have been able to watch all the students return to school very quickly indeed.

The behaviour of the students has been impeccable and the way they have carried out what is quite an invasive and unpleasant test, has shown tremendous maturity and patience. The really important outcome from all of the testing has been the fact that there has not been a single positive test result and we need to do all we can to make that continue. I believe this shows that our students have been complying with the expectations during lockdown and everyone must ensure that there is no let up until we are told otherwise. Compliance with all the other expectations for being in a safe environment such as the wearing of face masks, social distancing and the use of sanitisation points continues.

Our military style testing operation will wind down next week, and the Sports Hall will return to its intended use and we will be providing all consenting students with their home testing kits from next Tuesday. Clear guidance will be given as to when these tests need to be carried out and we will also have a private area in school for any students who would prefer to carry out a supervised test.

Uniform and appearance

Students can expect to be reminded about our high standards in terms of uniform now we have them back in school and our policy can be found [here](#). While we understand that there may be some reasonable issues to be overcome for some of our students, there is most definitely no room for jewellery or make up which is in excess of that outlined in the policy. Thank you for your support here.

What has gone well in lockdown....?

We are looking to gather the views from parents and carers with regards to some of the systems we have used during the lockdown in addition to the remote learning provision. Whilst memories are relatively fresh, we would appreciate you completing a questionnaire which can be found [here](#). This will help us evaluate what you would like us to keep or modify going forwards.

Movement of vehicles at the start of the school day

There appear to be more cars dropping students off at the start of the day than usual and this is creating a potentially unsafe environment. **Unless absolutely necessary, please drop your son or daughter off in town and encourage them to walk up to school from there.** Thank you for your help with this.



Notification of confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases

As has already been mentioned in this letter, one of the key reasons that St John's had so little disruption before lockdown, and has returned so successfully from it, is because of the way the systems around COVID-19 notifications have been managed. It is really important that we keep these systems running and it remains vital that 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/>.

This has been a very significant week for St John's and I have been very impressed by the way the students have returned and begun to engage. I hope the conversations at home have been positive but please do get in touch if you feel there is anything we should be aware of.

With kind regards



Mr I Tucker
Principal

