



16th July 2021
 lrr/jcl/stjcovid/16072021

Dear Parents and Carers

ST JOHN'S MARLBOROUGH

I am writing to update you on the plans we are having to make for the start of the new academic year which begins in September 2021.

Change to the start of the new academic year

GOVUK is now expecting all secondary school settings to be offering students two COVID-19 tests at the very start of term. This decision has been delivered to us late in the day and it does require us to inform you of some changes which we will need to make to the planned start. We can only apologise for any inconvenience this may cause but hope you understand that the school has little choice but to implement the testing programme for those that consent. This will mean that the start of the new academic year will be as follows:

Date	Arrangements
Wednesday 1 st September	Planned School Development Day for staff
Thursday 2 nd and Friday 3 rd September	All student first test begins. (Booked in advance via the online booking system)
Monday 6 th September	Second test begins for students in Years 7,12 and 13 (booked in advance)
Tuesday 7 th September	Years 7 and 12 term begins. Second test for students in Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 (booked in advance)
Wednesday 8 th September	School term begins for all other students.

Further details of the testing, consent and booking system will follow next week. We realise that this is a change from the planned return, and we have tried to make sure that we get through what is expected of us as quickly as we possibly can. We will need you to complete the consent form in order for your child to be tested.

COVID update

We are mindful of the daily increases in number of cases nationally and locally that relate to COVID-19. Whilst the restrictions nationally appear to have relaxed, we need to continue playing our part in helping to reduce infection and transmission. Following guidelines from Wiltshire Council, please can all students continue to wear face coverings when using dedicated school transport and public transport until the end of term. We **highly recommend** the wearing of face masks in communal areas and the one-way systems, ventilation and hand hygiene remain paramount. Lateral Flow Testing too is very important and we ask for your support in making sure students test on Wednesdays and Sundays and record their results on the school website.

As always, please 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. 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/>.

As ever, please do contact us if you need further reassurance.

With kind regards

Mr I Tucker
Principal

