



19th March 2021
lrr/jcl/stjcovid/19032021

Dear Parents and Carers

ST JOHN'S MARLBOROUGH – COVID 19

One year ago today, we said goodbye to all our students for what we thought would be for around three weeks to allow the nation to get the COVID-19 pandemic under control. Interestingly, we started building up to it much earlier when we took the decision to cancel the well-established Beijing visit because of the developing situation in China. I have kept every letter that I have written since February 2020 and one day I will collate them to map the journey that we have taken as a community. Who would have thought that one year later we would have experienced three lockdowns, delivered a vast amount of the school curriculum remotely, established a culture of face masks, social distancing and hand sanitisation, set up a COVID testing centre and begun asking everyone to take part in the voluntary home testing for COVID-19?

We have had another good week at St John's and we continue to see the students benefitting from being back together and from learning in a face to face environment whilst being able to see their friends in 'real time'. The compliance with all the COVID-19 secure measures we are insisting on continues to be high and we cannot emphasise enough the need to continue right up until we are told formally, we can relax.

I have referred to the St John's community a number of times recently because I know that one of the positive outcomes of the last year has been the way St John's has been able to draw on the goodwill and support of the people it is here to serve. The volunteer testing team is testament to this and it has led me to look at whether there is an appetite amongst parents and carers to re-establish the 'St John's Family and Friends' organisation which has been dormant for a while now. Please look out for more information on this in due course from Kate Hunter who will be looking at how to galvanise interest and support.

Uniform and appearance

Thank you for your support with uniform and appearance as we bring our students back. We continue to understand that there may be some reasonable issues to be overcome for some of our students. However, I must point out again that there is most definitely no room for jewellery or make up which is more than that outlined in the policy which can be found [here](#). After the Easter break, the weather should be warmer and there will not be any need for students to wear hoodies to school unless they are wearing an appropriate one as part of their PE kit. Can I also take this opportunity to remind students that 'Tip-Ex' is not allowed in school. Thank you for your support here.

Movement of vehicles at the start of the school day

Further to raising this point of safety last week, the situation at the start and the end of the school day does not seem to have improved and the large number of people dropping off their children is now leading to a very concerning and unsafe situation. As a school we will need to monitor this more closely now and we will be challenging people who are driving onto the school site. Please drop off and collect your son or daughter from within the town itself, thank you.



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/>.

Thank you once again for all your support at the end of the second week back for our students. We have also begun focussing on the responses to the survey that we sent out last week which will help us decide what to keep and change as we move away from remote provision.

With kind regards



Mr I Tucker
Principal

