

26<sup>th</sup> February 2021

ltr/jcl/stjcovid/26022021

Dear Parents and Carers

## ST JOHN'S MARLBOROUGH – COVID 19

I hope you are well and that like us, you are looking forward to having St John's open for all students very soon. There are, however, a significant number of hurdles ahead of us which we really need your help in clearing so that we can meet the target of having all year groups in front of teachers by **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March**. This letter will just focus on logistics so please do read it carefully.

- Firstly, thank you to all of you who have so far consented to be part of the voluntary mass testing. If you haven't done so, please follow the link which can be found here - [COVID Testing Consent Form](#). We have had a huge number of returns so far and it is important that our records are correct before we begin the programme from next Wednesday.
- The next thing to do from **12 noon today (26.02.2021)** is to follow the link to the testing booking website which can be found [here](#). The system operates in a similar way to the parent and carer evening booking system. Please log in as usual, select the Covid testing link and then select 'all bays' to see all the available appointments. The more students that can pass safely through their first test next week, the quicker we will be able to move through the remaining groups of students in the following week. We would ask for your patience and understanding with the booking system as we anticipate a high level of demand.
- As this is a highly logistical operation for us, students must not arrive too early for their test (we recommend 5 minutes before an appointment time) and they will need to leave the site immediately after having their test. The site will feel and appear different and there will be a clear but strict one-way system in place with social distancing arrangements that must be adhered to. Masks must be worn and the need to follow the hygiene arrangements will be clear.
- Students walking to school for their test, must remember that we are still officially in lockdown and that social grouping will draw attention. It is really important that behaviour is sensible and in line with the Government guidance.
- The testing programme is being run by a large army of school staff and volunteers from within our community. Without their support, we could not mobilise an operation of this scale in the window we have, and we must do everything we can to keep to the timescales. The team behind all of this understand the need to be both reassuring, understanding and efficient; please be assured, your son or daughter is in the safest of hands.
- Details of how we will administer home testing kits for students will be provided shortly.

Depending on how well the mass testing rolls out next week (and please do keep an eye on communications from us), our intention is to get all students in exam years back on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March and each day after that, bring back more year groups with everyone in school by March 12<sup>th</sup>. Depending on the success of next week's testing, we may be able to move more quickly but we will keep you informed. Please note that school transport will resume week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> March.

## **Notification of confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases**

It is really important that we keep this system running and it still remains vital you let the school know through the COVID-19 email - [covid-19@stjohns.excalibur.org.uk](mailto: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/>.

As we prepare to welcome all our students back, communication between home and school remains as important as ever, and I do hope that both you and your children will feel able to contact us at anytime if you need to.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible as soon as we safely can.

With kind regards



**Mr I Tucker**  
**Principal**

