



29th November 2021

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Dear Parents and Carers

ST JOHN'S MARLBOROUGH

I am writing to you in light of the announcements made this weekend by the Government in relation to the increased vigilance regarding COVID-19 variants. As a school, we are really pleased with the way that our students have been able to keep their attendance as high as possible and engage effectively in face-to-face lessons. However, there is clearly a need to follow Department for Education guidance when it is issued and to heed the fact that we remain in and amongst a global pandemic.

Face masks: We now need to ensure that students bring their own mask/face covering, with a spare if needed. The Government is now strongly recommending that students wear face masks in communal areas so as of Tuesday 30th November, that is what we will expect unless a student has a medical exemption. Whilst there is no mandate for students to wear masks in classrooms, it seems likely that this could be the next piece of guidance issued to schools so we are happy to support students wearing masks in lessons as well if they wish.

Vaccines: We are aware that the rollout of the vaccine programme in schools did not have quite the coverage it was intended to have. Please use the following [link](#) if you would like help and support making an appointment for your son or daughter to access a vaccine. We will mark as authorised those students who inform us that they are taking time off to get a vaccine.

Sanitisation: Personal hand hygiene and the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach to sneezing and disposing of tissues is especially important. The school has retained and services all its hand sanitisation stations, and we actively encourage students to use them along with regular handwashing.

Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing: ensuring that we all test twice a week and record the outcomes on the school website will help manage the response we make to positive tests. We will have a new order of LFDs arriving soon so we will be able to make certain that students have new tests to take into the Christmas Break.

In summary, we need students to pull together and wear masks in communal areas, take part in the vaccination programme, sanitise, test regularly and stay at home if they are unwell.

Remote Learning

Whilst most students are in school now, please be aware that where a student is isolating then they can still engage in terms of our remote learning offer. If they are well enough, they can expect to find the work they are missing on Satchel One (Show My Homework) and we encourage them to engage with this resource so that they do not fall behind unnecessarily. Accessing this resource will help to reduce the amount a student has to catch up once they are able to return to school.

COVID specific communication

Please continue to use the links on our school [website](#) if you have any specific COVID related concerns or questions. As always, we regularly update this resource, and it is also the place we need students to log their test result. Regular testing is highly recommended by the Government and we continue to 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 we need to be aware of. This is particularly important if your son or daughter has a positive case.

With kind regards



Mr I Tucker
Principal

