



3rd September 2021
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Dear Parents and Carers

ST JOHN'S MARLBOROUGH

I am delighted to be able to write to you ahead of welcoming all our students to the start of a new academic year. For those of you new to St John's, particularly our youngest starters in Year 7, we hope you will settle quickly and that any anxieties around starting a new school will soon be overcome.

As I write, the mandatory testing is taking place in the St John's Sports Hall and I would like to thank you for your co-operation and support with this significant undertaking. The new academic year is full of optimism as regards the students experiencing greater freedoms in terms of their educational experience, however we do need to be cautious over the next few weeks and months. In this letter, I hope to remind you of the current plans for the start of term and to outline a few other COVID-19 related details.

Countdown to the start of the new academic year

Below is a reminder of the remainder of our staggered return ahead of all students being in school from the 8th September.

Date	Arrangements
Monday 6 th September	Testing for students in Years 7, 12 and 13.
Tuesday 7 th September	Testing for students in Years 8, 9, 10 and 11. Year 7 and 12 students start the new academic year.
Wednesday 8 th September	All students in school.

Self-Isolation

From the 16th August, the legal requirement to self-isolate after close contact ended for everyone aged under 18 years and 6 months and for adults who have been fully vaccinated. This means that from the start of term only those who show symptoms or who test positive, will be required to self-isolate. A reminder of COVID-19 specific symptoms can be found [here](#).

NHS test and trace will carry out contact tracing in all education settings which up to now, has been done by the school with the assistance from Public Health England. **Please do not send your child into school if they are showing COVID-19 related symptoms.**



Protective Measures

You will be aware that in line with the measures for wider society, the Government has recommended that face coverings and social distancing will no longer be necessary, including in schools and colleges. Whilst this is positive news, we must continue to be careful in our approach to the start of the new term. Our risk assessment and Outbreak Management Plan can be found on the school website and these outline the control measures that will remain in place during the Autumn term. Both documents follow Government advice which includes practicing good hygiene, ensuring the building is well-ventilated and promoting regular COVID-19 testing. As a school we will be watching closely for any trends and developments both locally and nationally and we won't hesitate to reintroduce measures such as those we had around compulsory wearing of face masks if there is a need to. If any students wish to continue wearing a face mask, they are very welcome to do so.

Please follow this [link](#) for a handy Wiltshire Council guide to returning to school. This highlights the need for students on school transport to continue to wear face masks on buses.

COVID specific communication

Please continue to use the links on our school [website](#) if you have any specific COVID related concerns or questions. 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.

Building Development

I will give more information in due course on our new Sports Hall and outdoor facilities but simply to say that progress is on track and the project is really taking shape. Please be mindful of this development when approaching the school from the Granham Hill entrance – site safety protocols are all in place, but caution and vigilance is required by everyone.

The building work affects our changing facilities, so as was the case last year, students should come to school in their correct St John's PE kit on days when they have PE, games or after school sports clubs. On all other days the St John's school uniform should be worn.

Please do contact us if you need further reassurance and I look forward to a very promising year for our students and school.

With kind regards



Mr I Tucker
Principal

