

4th January 2022
lrr/jcl/stjcovid/04/01/22

Dear Parents and Carers

ST JOHN'S MARLBOROUGH

I would like to start by wishing you all a very Happy New Year and I do hope that you have been able to enjoy time with those closest to you.

It is difficult not to be aware of the press coverage regarding the return of students to schools, and the guidance to schools from GOVUK that has been updated. I hope to be able to summarise these for you as follows:

- It has been recommended by the Government that all students and staff **MUST** wear face coverings inside the building, including classrooms unless they are medically exempt. Therefore, **we will be** asking students to have their own face coverings and to wear these at all times inside the building. We only have a few emergency spare face coverings, so it will be up to families and students to provide their own for use in school. The status of face coverings is due to be reviewed towards the end of January.
- The self-isolation period has been shortened to 7 days, but this is subject to producing two negative LFDs 24 hours apart on day 6 and 7 of the isolation. If these are negative and the person involved shows no symptoms of COVID-19, then they may return to school on day 8.
- Close contacts must take LFD tests every day for 7 days and continue to attend school during this period, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms.
- Even if someone has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, they are strongly encouraged to take part in LFD testing once they have completed their isolation period for their prior infection.
- Ventilation is important and teachers will use their discretion in allowing students to wear coats in classrooms.
- There will be further information released to parents from Virgin Health shortly regarding the opportunity for 12-15 year olds to receive their second dose of the vaccine on the school site.
- Any exams timetabled for January will continue as planned.

Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing on return – thank you to all of you who have signed up to do this on Wednesday 5th January. Please remember that if you have been unable to make an appointment to come into school to take a test, you must take a test at home and record the outcome on the school website which can be found [here](#).

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.

We have been told to expect some disruption to the start of term, due to staff absence. Please be assured that we will do everything we can to keep the educational experience for the students as normal as possible. Should we need to move to remote learning, please be assured that we will do this but only as a last resort. I look forward to seeing all the students later this week and I would like to thank you for all your continued support.

With kind regards



Mr I Tucker
Principal

