



26<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Following recent government announcements, you will be aware that schools will reopen across England from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. We're very much looking forward to welcoming our pupils back to onsite learning at St Mary's and are busy making the necessary preparations to do so safely.

I write to provide an overview of our plans for a phased return which will support the management of our coronavirus testing programme. Current arrangements for remote learning will continue for all pupils until the day they return to the site to avoid any unnecessary disruption to their learning.

Date	Year Groups returning	Year Groups onsite
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 12 and 13	Years 12-13
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 10 and 11	Years 10-13
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 8 and 9	Years 8-13
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 7	Year 7-13

### **Coronavirus Testing**

As a further measure to promote a safe return, we will be offering coronavirus testing to all pupils from 8<sup>th</sup> March. There will be 3 on site tests provided with 3-5 days in between each one. These will be carried out using Lateral Flow Devices (LFDs) which provide a result within 30 minutes.

Testing is voluntary and consent will be required for it to be carried out. We strongly encourage all pupils and families to take advantage of this opportunity and help us prevent the spread of coronavirus. To provide consent you will need to complete an online form which is accessible [here](#). To enable us to prepare appropriately please complete the form at the earliest opportunity.

After three initial tests in school, pupils will be provided with testing kits and asked to continue testing twice per week at home. Please note that these cannot be issued until a pupil has completed their 3 onsite tests. Further details will be forthcoming, and guidance will be available to support families.

### **Attendance and Behaviour**

Pupils should arrive in school at the start of the appropriate day and move directly to their zone. Our usual expectations for uniform, attendance and behaviour will remain and we welcome your support in ensuring that standards promote a world class learning environment from the outset.

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**Executive Head/CEO.**  
Mr G Fitzpatrick

**Head of School**  
Mr D Perry





As a reminder, pupils should self-isolate and not come to school if they:

- Have coronavirus symptoms or have tested positive
- Live with someone who has symptoms or have tested positive
- Are a close contact of someone who has tested positive
- Are **clinically extremely vulnerable**

For any students who are self-isolating or shielding we will continue to provide remote learning.

### **Risk Assessment and Systems of Control**

Updated risk assessments will continue to be published on our website and the systems of control in place throughout the Autumn term will remain. In addition, we will ask that all pupils and staff (unless exempt) wear a face covering in classrooms as well as in communal indoor spaces where social distancing cannot be reasonably maintained. This is in line with national guidance and is a temporary measure to be reviewed at Easter. Appropriate adjustments will be made for our hearing-impaired students.

### **Awarding grades for GCSEs, A-Levels and Vocational Qualifications**

Those with children in our examination cohorts will have noted further announcements on the awarding of grades this week. We continue to process the emerging guidance for schools in this regard. In the meantime, all courses will continue as normal and students should focus on working hard to develop the knowledge and skills that will best prepare them to represent themselves well moving forward.

Further details on all aspects of the return to school will be provided through the school website from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March and a direct link will be circulated. We will also have an additional remote form time on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March when tutors will talk students through the process and answer any questions.

Lockdown has been a challenging period for all of us and I would like to thank you for your continuing support through this difficult and uncertain time, not least in facilitating learning at home.

Yours sincerely

Mr D Perry - **Head of School**

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