



St Martin-in-the-Fields High School for Girls

11-19 Church of England Academy Founded 1699

Service Compassion Justice Perseverance

Friday 26 February 2021

YEAR 9 LETTER - RETURN TO SCHOOL ARRANGEMENTS INCLUDING COVID-19 TESTING

Dear Families

Further to my letter of 24 February, I write with details of how we will welcome back students. This will be a long letter, so please read carefully to the end and do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or queries.

As you can imagine it is quite a logistical task as the return also includes covid testing of all students using the Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing which we have been doing throughout this lockdown for students and adults that have been on site. In line with government guidance, we will have a staggered start to enable this to happen. Our priority is to get students back into class and face to face learning as quickly as possible and the testing process will give all of us additional reassurance of the safety and wellbeing of our school community.

Testing is not compulsory and we do need parental consent. However, we strongly encourage all students to be tested to help reduce the risk of bringing the virus into the school without knowing it and transmitting the virus to others. For further information, please refer to my letter of 10 February and the [Covid-19 testing](#) section on our website and I ask that you complete the online [covid-19 test consent form](#). Once completed we will inform you of the time your daughter should come to school for their test in accordance with the programme you will see at the end of this letter. There are a couple of short and very helpful videos that explain the process of LFD testing: [getting ready for your test](#), and [lateral flow tests](#) Please view these with your daughter.

The government requires students to have three tests. We will test all students before they return to school and twice more within the first two weeks whilst in school. Thereafter testing will revert to home test kits which will require students to carry out twice weekly self swab testing. We are waiting for delivery of these tests which are expected to be in school ready to distribute once we have completed the three onsite tests. I will write to you again with further information about home testing kits. This testing programme also applies to adults in the school.

Arrangements for asymptomatic testing from 8 March 2021

When your daughter comes into school for her test, she will enter through her normal gate and will be directed to the technology block which is our test site. She must avoid contact with any other students on site. She will swab herself under the supervision of a trained tester.

Once the swab has been done, your daughter will return home to continue her lessons remotely for that day. You will receive a text or email with the result. Should the result be positive, your daughter will be required to self isolate for 10 days, take a PCR test and your household will have to self isolate in accordance with the government guidance.

On the test day your daughter does not have to wear school uniform, however, full uniform will be required when your daughter returns to school full time and in line with our dress code expectations.

Headteacher Mrs Beverley Stanislaus B.Ed. NPQH

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WITH LOVE AND LEARNING



Having read the government guidance for return, much of the content is familiar to us, as it replicates the preventative measures we already have in place. There is however a new directive on testing which I have already outlined above and also on the use of face coverings.

Face Coverings

As an additional precautionary measure during this period of high coronavirus (COVID-19) prevalence in the community, the government has recommended the use of face coverings in circumstances where social distancing cannot easily be maintained. This means face covering will be worn in the classrooms as well as communal areas. These measures will be in place until Easter and will then be reviewed.

It is important, therefore, that your daughter has a clean face covering every day and unless she is outdoors, her face covering will need to be worn properly in all indoor areas of the school at all times. We established a blue badge system for any student or member of staff who are exempt and if this is the case, further enhanced social distancing measures need to be maintained. Please see my [previous letter outlining our blue badge system](#). Please let us know if your daughter is exempt.

Hand and Respiratory Hygiene

Hands - Face - Space continues to be critical. We expect students to use the additional handwashing facilities we have in school. We also have sanitising stations which start at the entrance to the school. Students must use hand sanitiser if they are unable to access soap and water. Additionally, Catch it - Bin it - Kill it. Sneezing/coughing, blowing nose into a tissue, disposing of the tissue and washing/sanitising hands afterwards.

Timing of the Day

The timing of the day that we have in place for each bubble remains the same. When students return, they should arrive at their usual time, at their designated gate and in full school uniform. Dismissal times also remain the same. Please reinforce to your daughter that, at the end of the day, she does not gather with friends, instead goes straight home and adheres to the rules of face coverings if using public transport.

Supporting your child's academic progress, mental health and wellbeing

Staff are working hard for the return of students and we have planned for support with gaps in learning and wellbeing. We know that the home learning experience for each student has been very different and we will work with you and your daughter to ensure she transitions back into school as smoothly as possible and accesses the support and help she may need.

Vulnerable children and children of critical workers

If your daughter has been attending school for onsite learning during the lockdown she should continue to attend during the staggered start whilst we are testing. she will reintegrate back into her year group for testing and normal lessons according to the timetable.

Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV)

CEV staff are advised not to attend the workplace. Staff who are CEV will have received a letter from the NHS or their GP telling them this and there is [guidance for everyone in this group](#). If your daughter is in the CEV category, she will remain at home and continue to learn remotely until the government has paused the shielding.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory from 8 March 2021 and the usual rules on school attendance apply, including:

- parents' duty to secure their child's regular attendance at school (where the child is a registered student at school and they are of compulsory school age)
- the ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

Managing confirmed and suspected covid cases

it is really important that if your daughter displays any covid symptoms she must not attend school. Please let the school know immediately if your daughter tests positive as the school is required to undertake contact tracing within the school and must inform Public Health England of any confirmed covid cases.

This has been a long letter and I thank you for staying with me until the end! I am looking forward to working with you over the coming months and hopeful that the picture ahead of us seems to be looking much brighter.

On behalf of all the staff and governors, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you very much for your continued support and we look forward to welcoming back our students, your children very soon.

Best wishes



Beverley Stanislaus
Headteacher

Year 9 Timetable for Testing and Return Full Time School

Your daughter will remain at home and continue to follow the remote learning timetable until the date of return. If your daughter has been attending the onsite learning during the national lockdown, she should continue to attend.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8/3 Remain at home remote learning	9/3 Remain at home remote learning	10/3 Remain at home remote learning	11/3 In school for testing only by appointment	12/3 In school normal lessons
15/3 In school normal lessons	16/3 In school normal lessons Retest 2	17/3 In school normal lessons	18/3 In school normal lessons	19/3 In school normal lessons Retest 3
22/3 In school normal lessons	23/3 onwards In school for normal lessons Home test kits distributed			