



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

11-19 Church of England Academy Founded 1699

Service Compassion Justice Perseverance

"I am the resurrection and the life" John 11:25

Wednesday 31 March 2021

Dear Families

I hope you are well and ready for the Easter break. It is hard to believe that I am writing to you to say that we will be on holiday as from the end of today. The time has flown since we welcomed our students back to school on 8 March and we have had a busy and productive 4 weeks. School will reopen for the final term of the academic year at the normal time on **Monday 19 April 2021**.

This will be a long letter so please stay with me to the end. I will set out each new item under a subheading to make it easier to follow.

Free school meals

If your child is eligible for free school meals, you will receive a message with an e-code from our usual provider, Wonde. Please claim your code as soon as possible. You will receive £30 for two weeks for each eligible child.

Home testing

The home testing is going well. However, we have distributed more test kits than we are receiving results. If you have agreed to participate in the home testing, please ensure that your child tests twice a week and then reports the results. This can be done quickly and easily via the [covid-19 home testing](#) section on our website. Your child can get additional test kits from our testing centre once they have used and reported on all their tests.

Contact Tracing

The government made the following statement regarding contact tracing over the Easter holiday. 'Schools continue to play an important role in contact tracing and the national effort to limit the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). We recognise the challenges of this responsibility during holidays and would like to thank everyone for their continued support. Asking establishments to provide contact tracing support is a key part of the test and trace process, as schools hold the data about close contacts and pupil contact details.'

'We will continue to keep these arrangements under review and will continue to try to reduce the burden on staff. We need to ask schools and further education providers to continue with contact tracing over Easter, similar to the arrangements over Christmas.'

- Staff, students, parents and carers only need to inform the school of a positive case where they developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in their education setting. The school will assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school.
- Where students or staff test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) during the holidays, having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in an education setting, the school is not required to take any action. Staff, students, parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

Headteacher Mrs Beverley Stanislaus B.Ed. NPQH

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WITH LOVE AND LEARNING



- Staff do not need to be available for contact tracing duties beyond the first 6 days of the Easter holidays, at which point all positive cases should be dealt with through NHS Test and Trace. This means that where a school ends face-to-face education on Wednesday 31 March, there will be no need to remain on-call after Tuesday 6 April.

If the case meets the criteria in bullet point 1, which is, you have tested positive **within the first 48 hours of being in school**, use the dedicated St Martin's coronavirus email address and I will contact you. Alternatively you can call the coronavirus dedicated mobile Number **07753 498688** However, email is preferable **covid@stmartins.academy** Making contact with the school is so that we can carry out any track and trace related to any school close contacts. You will also have to follow the NHS guidance in relation to tests and self isolation.

Outside the 48 hours of the last date of being in school, you and families of students testing positive would follow the normal procedure contacting [NHS online](#).

You will need to be informed should a positive test or isolation run into the return date after the Easter holiday which is Monday 19 April.

Covid vaccine

You will have seen the press coverage on the low rate of take-up of vaccination, especially among elderly black men. Sir Lenny Henry is fronting a short video called 'a letter to a loved one' which you can view by clicking on the link <https://vimeo.com/showcase/8294691/video/529325070>

Shielding

The government has paused the shielding notice from today, 31 March. We look forward to welcoming back staff and students who were following the shielding guidance. Our risk assessment will be updated to reflect this. If you have any concerns for your child with regards to her return, please contact the school.

Letter to students from the Secretary of State

The Secretary of State for Education has written to children and young people to recognise the impact of the disruption they have faced over the past year and to thank them for their resilience. He outlines his continued commitment to supporting children and young people to recover from the disruption now that they have returned to school and college. The letter also highlights the importance of coronavirus (COVID-19) testing and the vital role this plays in helping to prevent the virus spreading. You can find the letter [here](#).

Easter Holiday Activities

Please click [here](#) to view an extensive list of Easter activities in Tulse Hill and the surrounding area. Also visit the [Lambeth website](#) to find out about more Easter activities near you!

Finally, we look forward to the Easter holidays and the relaxing of the lockdown measures with hope and better times on the horizon. Just as we read in the Easter story, Jesus' Crucifixion was not the end, his resurrection gave us all hope. Let us all continue to put our faith in God and trust in his Word that we will see a safer world, where justice and equality leads the way!

Easter Blessings



Beverley Stanislaus
Headteacher