



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 13 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 child 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 child.

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 child comes into school for their test, they will enter at the drive entrance (this may not be their normal entrance) and they will be directed to the technology block. They must avoid contact with any other students on site. Students will swab themselves under the supervision of a trained tester.

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

Please read the testing programme which you will find at the end of this letter. On the test day your child does not have to wear school uniform, however, full uniform will be required when your child returns to school full time and in line with our dress code expectations.

Headteacher Mrs Beverley Stanislaus B.Ed. NPQH

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Registered Number 07984073. Registered office: 155 Tulse Hill, London SW2 3UP

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 for a limited time 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. These measures will be in place until Easter and will then be reviewed.

It is important, therefore, that your child has a clean face covering every day and unless they are outdoors, it will need to be worn properly in all 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](#).

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 timings 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 child that at the end of the day, they do not gather with friends, go home straight away and wear their face covering 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 child to ensure that they transition back into school as smoothly as possible and access the support and help they need.

Vulnerable children and children of critical workers

If your child has been attending school during the lockdown for onsite learning, they should continue to attend during the staggered week whilst we are testing. They will reintegrate back into their 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 child is in the CEV category, they will remain at home and continue to learn remotely until the government has paused the shielding. I would like to let you know that we have a number of staff who will be in this group and will be working remotely.

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 child displays any covid symptoms they must not attend school. Please let the school know immediately if your child 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.

2021 Examinations

We received on Thursday 25 February, the long awaited statement from The Education Secretary about how students will be assessed this year. [Gavin Williamson announced](#) that “Students will receive grades awarded and determined by teachers, with pupils only assessed on what they have been taught”. “Fairness and flexibility are at the heart of the Government’s plans to ensure young people get to their next stage of education or training.”

We are looking through some of the information published so far and will update you further as we receive more details.

In the meantime, you have already received a letter from us about the internal assessment process that will start the week beginning 15 March. We are planning the timetable and will update you in the coming days.

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 13 Timetable for Testing and Return Full Time School

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