



26 February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are well.

We have been busily preparing for our students to return to school and I am pleased to share the arrangements with you below.

A reminder that secondary schools are being asked to offer students three lateral flow tests on site (leaving approximately 3-5 days between each test) from 8 March. Testing remains optional but 'strongly encouraged'. Students can return to learning on site once they have had one negative test (or been offered one test and declined) in line with the return timetable below. After students have had three tests onsite (or the offer of three tests), they will be provided with home testing kits to continue with twice weekly testing at home.

The timetable for the return to school allowing for testing is as follows. The testing is dependent on a Consent Form and Privacy Notice and we would ask all of you to complete the form to indicate whether or not you give your consent.

Timetable for Lateral Flow Testing and return to face to face teaching in School is:

Year Group	First Test	Second Test	Third Test
Year 12 and Year 13	Friday 5 March Return to School on Monday 8 March (Building 5)	Tuesday 9 March	Friday 12 March
11	Monday 8 March Return to School on Tuesday 9 March (Building 5)	Thursday 11 March	Tuesday 16 March
10	Tuesday 9 March Return to school Monday 15 March (Building 4)	Monday 15 March	Thursday 18 March
9	Wednesday 10 March Return to school Monday 15 March (Building 5)	Friday 12 March	Wednesday 17 March
8	Wednesday 10 March Return to school Monday 15 March (Building 5)	Friday 12 March	Tuesday 16 March
7	Monday 8 March Return to school Monday 15 March (Building 4)	Thursday 11 March	Monday 15 March



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The other notable change from the previous guidance is that for students in all year groups in secondary schools it is strongly recommended that they wear face coverings in classrooms. It continues to be expected in indoor communal areas as it was last term. The guidance also mentions that teachers are encouraged to wear face coverings when delivering lessons where social distancing cannot be maintained, but it is not mandatory as this may present challenges for our students with hearing impairments.

In order to open schools we have been asked to review our school risk assessments to ensure that we comply with the COVID secure measures. I will write to you again next week to revisit the details of this. In the meantime, the key COVID secure principles remain:

- Regular handwashing and hand sanitising
- Keeping students in year group bubbles and keeping those bubbles socially distanced before and after school and during social times
- Having a well ventilated school
- Use of face masks in all indoor areas
- Using contact tracing in the event of a positive COVID case and ensuring 10 days self-isolation is adhered to by close contacts.

We must re-emphasise that the lateral flow tests are done to detect asymptomatic coronavirus cases only. Therefore, anyone experiencing any symptoms must not attend school and must follow government guidelines to self-isolate and get a PCR test, even if they have had a recent negative lateral flow test.

Please note, if your child has had COVID in the last 90 days, they will not need to do a lateral flow test as we expect that they will continue to have an elevated level of antibodies. This would show up as a positive COVID test and would result in your child having to self-isolate for a minimum of 10 days.

Our Asymptomatic Test Site is being run by fully trained staff and we will support and reassure students throughout the whole process. Should you have any questions relating to the lateral flow device testing process please contact us at admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk

Accompanying this letter is a poster which explains the swabbing parts of the lateral flow device testing process and below are further information and links to our consent form and privacy notice.

Consent and Privacy Notice

Consent relates to the following groups of students as follows:

- **For students younger than 16 years** - the form must be completed by the parent or carer. Please complete one consent form for each child you wish to participate in testing.
- **Students 16 and over who are able to provide informed consent** - can complete the form themselves, having discussed participation with their parent/carer if under 18.



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- **For any student who does not have the capacity to provide informed consent** - this form must be completed by the parent or carer. Please complete one consent form for each child you wish to participate in testing.

Follow the links to the St Andrew the Apostle School Lateral Flow Test Consent Form which includes the full terms of Consent and the Privacy Notice on our website.

To confirm your consent for you (if you are over 16) or your child to be tested in School, please click on the following link and complete and submit the form by **3.00pm on Tuesday 2 March** in order that testing can be scheduled.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=bCkKhyVdnEuSUFIfzQ18cwu8Tuab3NPIJU_Dox3I5NUOFZXR_EMOVIQ0MVUyWDFRVDfRVkUyV1A4WC4u

If we do not receive a completed Consent Form by Tuesday 2 March we will assume that you do not consent to you/your child being tested for COVID in School. Your child will therefore return to School on the date for their year group.

We will be in touch after Wednesday 3 March to advise details of arrangements for testing and our COVID secure expectations.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming our students back onto site and to the spring and summer months ahead.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I. Warwick'.

Indira Warwick
(Headteacher)