



February 2021

Dear parents/carers,

As you're likely aware, the government has announced that schools will reopen to all pupils from 8 March. We're very much looking forward to welcoming back our pupils to face-to-face education.

School attendance

The latest government guidance on school reopening says you can welcome pupils back on a phased basis during the week of 8th March to help manage your coronavirus testing programme.

On the week starting 8th March, following government recommendations, we'll be welcoming pupils back on a phased basis as outlined below. The government urges schools to prioritise vulnerable children and children of critical workers and our provision for these children will remain in place.

Monday 8 th March	Tuesday 9 th March	Wednesday 10 th March	Thursday 11 th March	Friday 12 th March
Year 12 and 13: 10.30 am	Year 10: 9 am	Year 8: 9 am	Normal school timetable	Normal school timetable
Year 11: 12.30 pm	Year 9: 11.30 am	Year 7: 11.30 am		

All pupils should enter their zone through the doors they've used this academic year at the times stated above.

Parents/carers are reminded that the end of the school day is staggered.

Year 7 finish: 2.30pm

Years 8 and 10 finish: 2.40pm

Years 9, 11, 12 and 13 finish: 2.50pm

Further information regarding school bus arrangements will follow.

School attendance will be mandatory and our usual rules on attendance will apply.

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.

In line with the latest government guidance, pupils who are **clinically extremely vulnerable** should not attend school. If your child is in this group, they should continue to learn from home until further notice. Parents/carers should provide the school with evidence of the most recent letter advising shielding until 31st March 2021.

For pupils who are self-isolating or shielding, we will continue to offer remote education through a blended approach including work on class charts.

ST JOHN BOSCO ARTS COLLEGE

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Headteacher: Mr Darren Gidman, BSc [Hons], NPQH





Coronavirus testing

To help us keep everyone safe, we'll be offering rapid coronavirus testing to all our pupils as they return from 8th March. Pupils will be asked to take 3 coronavirus tests at school, with 3 to 5 days between each test. Test results will take about 30 minutes to process.

Pupils can return to school after their first negative result. If at any point they test positive, they'll need to self-isolate in line with government guidance.

Testing is voluntary, and you will need to give consent in order for it to be carried out. However, we strongly encourage your child to take part so we can help prevent the spread of coronavirus.

If your child is not participating in testing, they should attend school as usual in line with our phased return arrangements.

After the 3 initial tests at school, pupils will be offered coronavirus tests that they should take twice a week at home. The school will provide these tests in due course.

Our safety measures

Rest assured that we're doing everything we can to make sure our pupils can return to school safely. From 8 March, we'll be taking the following protective measures:

- We'll ask that all pupils wear a face covering in classrooms, communal areas and corridors. This is in line with the latest government guidance for schools. Pupils are expected to provide their own face coverings
- Ensure everyone is advised to clean their hands thoroughly and more often than usual for 20 seconds
- Ensure that there are plenty of hand sanitizing stations and that all pupils and staff sanitize as they arrive on site and regularly throughout the day
- Ensure good respiratory hygiene for everyone by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- Maintain enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often
- Continue to operate 'bubbles' to minimise contact across the site and maintain social distancing wherever possible. Children should not leave their bubble
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated and ensure that there are regular opportunities for pupils to use outside space (at least break and lunchtime each day).

Please see our risk assessment on our website for further details.

You can help us further by supporting our procedures, such as:

- Staggered drop off and pick up times to keep groups apart as they arrive and leave
- There will be two school buses running as usual; students are reminded that masks **MUST** be worn on all public transport
- A reminder that parents/careers/students should not gather at the school gate
- Parents/Careers will need to make an appointment if they need to come onto the school site.

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Rules on what pupils can take to and from school, e.g.:

- Limiting the amount of equipment they bring to school to essentials like lunch boxes, bags, books and stationary
- Avoiding unnecessary sharing of items

Procedures for keeping children safe in school, such as:

- Pupils will remain in their bubbles
- Clear markings are in place on corridors
- All staff and pupils will be reminded of hygiene measures such as hand-washing and the safe usage of masks
- Split lunches and break times support social distancing.

Information about uniform

Students should be in full school uniform.

School Meals

There will be hot and cold food available at lunch and break time for all students including those entitled to free school meals.

Additional support

Lockdown has been a challenging period for all of us, and we'd like to thank you for your continuing support during this difficult and uncertain time. If you or your child have any concerns about returning to school, or if you think your child might need extra support when they return, please get in touch with your child's PPC.

We'd also like to thank you for all your support in helping your child learn from home. We'll continue to keep in touch if we update our plans or if we need to make changes due to new government guidance.

Yours faithfully,

Mr D Gidman
Headteacher

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