



1st January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

You may have seen or read recent news stories about schools and colleges being asked to phase the start of the spring term differently to what was initially requested before Christmas. I am writing to you today to explain how St John Bosco Arts College now intends to respond to this change.

We will follow the government guidance on how to phase the start of term, which is intended to ensure effective education can continue but also reduce the spread of the virus, as pupils and staff return after Christmas. This means the following:

From Tuesday 5th January 2021, only the following pupils should attend school:

- Vulnerable children and children of critical workers (please follow the link for more information about what defines a vulnerable child or critical worker)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

If your son/daughter is in Y7, 8, 9, 10, 11,12 or 13 and meets either of these sets of criteria, please email enquiries@stjohnbosco.org.uk if you would like them to attend the first week of the new term, from Tuesday 5th January 2021.

- Pupils who have external BTEC / Vocational examinations throughout this week will be expected to attend school for the examination, then return home afterwards. Further details will be sent to individual classes at the beginning of next week.

From Monday 11th January 2021, only the following pupils should attend school:

- Pupils in examination year groups must attend school (at St John Bosco Arts College, this means pupils in Years 11, 12 and 13.)

If you are unsure about whether or not your child falls into any of these categories, please contact us through enquiries@stjohnbosco.org.uk for confirmation. **All other pupils must stay at home if they are not in an examination year group, or a vulnerable child/child of a critical worker.**

From Monday 18 January 2021, all pupils should attend school as normal.

Throughout this phased start to the new term, any child who is at home due to the restrictions will be provided with remote education. The government has asked that this be prioritised to pupils in examination year groups, but we will be providing remote education to all pupils. ClassCharts will remain the platform through which pupils can access remote education and further information will follow so pupils can easily locate and complete their work each day.

Throughout the period of phased reopening, the school bus service is expected to run as normal for those wishing to use this transport. All pupils using any form of public transport to get to and from school, are reminded that they must wear a face covering whilst travelling unless they have a medical exemption.

ST JOHN BOSCO ARTS COLLEGE

Telephone: 0151 235 1620

Email: enquiries@stjohnbosco.org.uk www.stjohnboscoartscollege.com

Storrington Avenue, Liverpool L11 9DQ

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





Mass testing programme information:

The government have asked all secondary schools to offer mass testing from the beginning of the new term. Consent forms will again be issued at the start of the new term, and only children whose parents provide informed consent will be tested as part of the programme.

We are positive about the potential for the mass testing of pupils and staff in schools, as a way of reducing the spread of the virus and enabling fewer pupils and staff to have to self-isolate.

Setting up this programme in schools is an incredibly complex operation. We have been sent some information about how it should work already, but more detailed guidance is expected to be produced by the government and the Local Authority shortly.

We will let you know more about our plans as soon as we can. In the meantime, from the start of next term, we will continue to implement the safety measures we have been using in the autumn term.

Please accept our apologies for having to regularly update our advice and information to you after term has already ended. We are having to respond to a vast quantity of extremely last minute and complex government guidance.

Thank you for your patience, and all best wishes for a happy New Year.

Yours sincerely

D. Gidman

**Mr D Gidman
Headteacher**

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