



In all things faithful

August 2021

Dear Parents/carers

Start to the New Academic Year: September 2021

I hope you have all had a restful and safe summer and are looking forward to starting a new and exciting academic year. As I outlined in my July 2021 letter school will reopen for pupils as follows;

- Thursday 2nd September 2021: School open for Year 7 and Year 11 **only**
- Friday 3rd September 2021: School open for **all** Year groups

Below is some important information regarding Covid that aims to keep all of the St Damian's safe in the next few months.

Covid and updates

Despite being back to some 'normality' the dangers of Covid have not gone away. It is still dangerous and as such we must all remain vigilant. The following outlines some information regarding expectations.

- ✓ If your child develops symptoms of Covid, they must isolate and you should arrange a PCR test via <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested-or-by-calling-119>. The main symptoms are well known now: high temperature, a new, continuous cough and a loss or change to sense of smell or taste. If the test is positive your child must self-isolate for 10 days. Please inform us if it is a positive test result.
- ✓ If there is a confirmed case of Covid at school, close contacts are no longer required to self-isolate and can continue normal activities provided your child does not develop symptoms.
- ✓ Upon return to school all pupils will have **three** supervised onsite lateral flow tests. Thereafter, all pupils will be provided with home testing kits and should perform regular tests at home. The timetable for this is as follows:
 - Thursday 2nd September 2021: Years 7 & 11
 - Friday 3rd September 2021: Years 8, 9 & 10
 - Monday 6th September 2021: All pupils
 - Thursday 9th September 2021: All pupils
 - Week beginning 13th September 2021: **Home testing**

It is also the expectation that pupils wear masks as they walk around communal areas to ensure the safety of all. This will be reviewed at the end of September.

I look forward to welcoming pupils back to school this September, looking smart, enthusiastic, and ready to learn.

Regards

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