

5th January 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Updated Headlines as of Tuesday 5th January 2021: National Lockdown

- **From Tuesday 5th January 2021 to Friday 12th February 2021**
 - School is open for **only** vulnerable pupils and children of critical workers in all year groups.
 - All other pupils in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 to attend live lessons and their weekly year group assembly remotely on MS Teams from Tuesday 5th January 2021.
 - Testing Programme – Staff will test themselves weekly using the lateral flow tests but the mass testing programme for all year groups will be postponed until we all return. During lockdown any pupils who are close contacts of a positive case and who consent to be tested will be tested. This is subject to any further Government announcement.

Happy New Year everyone. Well I did not expect this but perhaps I should have, that I would write to you so quickly after my last letter with yet more change. Following the Prime Minister's announcement yesterday, we have entered a new national lockdown due to the increased risk posed by the new variant of COVID-19 and the current pressure on our hospitals. Therefore, we must respond and ensure we do the best for every student within our Saint George family within the guidance we have and under the premise of keeping everyone safe whilst maintaining an education.

The updated headlines outline the next set of changes for us moving forward. Please see below information for specific areas:

Children of Key Workers and Vulnerable Pupils Registration for Emergency School

Our intention is to minimize the number of staff in school to avoid mixing and the potential risk of transmission. Therefore, vulnerable pupils and children of key workers will be supervised in school and attend their lessons remotely remaining in their year group bubbles in one of our five computer rooms. If pupils have their own headphones please can they bring them with them, if they haven't we will provide them so they can listen and follow their remote lessons effectively. Please can I make it clear that our expectation is that you come to school where we can support and supervise you with your work. **In order to help us plan staffing please can you complete the online registration form below by clicking on the link or please email Mrs Jeanine Bonavia to confirm you would like to attend at headpa@stgcc.co.uk by 9am this Thursday 7th January 2021.**

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=8mJrt-Dz8kini2H46dDMEVTP4Kq856dFtQ8gs_x24nRUOEVBZRzJNRzIFUVBMTzdJT0dQTzhUM0kxUy4u

School Bus Transport

The current national lockdown for schools is until February half term subject to any further Government announcement. For students who are still coming to school, our school minibus service will operate as normal. Our school buses will be postponed from next Monday 11th January 2021 until Friday 12th February 2021. Parents will not be charged for the bus service from the 11th January to 12th February 2021.

Remote Teaching

All pupils should attend live lessons via MS Teams following their normal school timetable. Lessons will be delivered live through your son/daughter's MS Teams account. If there are any issues with connecting to your lessons please email your progress leader. Assemblies, but not tutor time, will take place on MS Teams as normal. Contact details for progress leaders are below:

- Year 7 gprovenzano@stgcc.co.uk
- Year 8 cself@stgcc.co.uk

- Year 9 afoord@stgcc.co.uk
- Year 10 ocopplestone@stgcc.co.uk
- Year 11 cshelley@stgcc.co.uk

Safeguarding - Pupils

staysafe@stgcc.co.uk

This email address is available for pupils if you are feeling concerned for your safety, wellbeing or anxiety which is affecting your ability to function as you normally would. This will be looked at daily. For parents, the email address will be emailed to all students via their school email accounts and put on each year group's team page.

Tutor Phone Calls

It is essential to all pupils' wellbeing and to aid their return to school that we maintain contact with our students. Therefore, tutor calls to all students in their tutor groups will take place week commencing Monday 18th January 2021 and Monday 8th February 2021. Please be aware that during those weeks a small number of lessons in Years 7 and 8 will be set work by their teachers to give tutors time to call pupils.

Year 11 & Year 10 Summer Exams

There is currently very little information on the next steps for Year 11 and Year 10 exams. **The Prime Minister said "alternative arrangements will be made for exams". He did not say there will be no exams, so please can I council caution and patience at this time. You may well still sit some exams in some subjects.** We totally understand that this will create a huge amount of uncertainty, stress and anxiety for all students as well as the staff but we need to wait and see what the alternative arrangements will be. Five weeks will pass quickly and you will be back after half term. **Therefore, please ensure you are attending your lessons on line, all of this will count and it is essential you all remain committed and try your best.** When we have clear guidance, we will of course communicate this with all pupils and parents, but now is not the time to give up but show perseverance and keep going in your best interests.

Year 11 intervention and Year 11 mock results day

It is currently our intention that intervention and mock results day will start again after the February half term but this will depend on what guidance will be released by the Government concerning exams. When we know, we will communicate this to you.

BTEC Exams: Year 10 & Year 11

Currently BTEC exams for Year 10 and Year 11 pupils in February we are informed are still going ahead. Therefore, currently we have approval to bring students in to sit those exams. If this changes we will of course let you know, but at the moment they are still on so please ensure you are attending all lessons online to be as best prepared as you can be.

Lateral Flow Testing Programme for COVID-19

All staff who consent to be tested will be testing at home weekly using the lateral flow tests starting this week. If there is the capacity, we will test pupils who are in our emergency school if they consent to be tested and any close contacts of a positive COVID-19 case providing they consent to be tested. Mass testing of whole year groups is still intended to take place on our full return but not during this national lockdown. I would like to thank Mrs Terri Chappell, the volunteers, Mrs Drummond and a number of staff who worked throughout the Christmas holidays to have this established initially for the first week as expected and then for a staggered start. The situation is incredibly frustrating when staff have given up many hours of their time to make school a safer place, but we have to accept we are in unprecedented times and it can change.

Year 10 and Year 11 Parents' Evening

Please note that Year 11 parents' evening has been changed from Thursday 14th January 2021 to Thursday 4th February and will still take place however remotely. Year 10 parents' evening is due to still take place on Thursday 28th

January 2021. Both will take place remotely using an online platform called School Cloud. Mr Liston, Mr Copplestone and Mr Shelley will write to parents and pupils in those year groups in due course with the details.

Year 9 Curriculum Information evening – Thursday 11th February 2021

This will take place starting at 7pm live through your son/daughter's MS Teams account on the Year 9 page led by Mr Douglas. We will write to you in due course with the details.

Free School Meals: From Tuesday 5th January 2021 to Friday 12th February 2021

Any pupils entitled to FSM vouchers should have received them for this week if they are not in school. From next week commencing Monday 11th January 2021 our food supplier City Catering Southampton have finalized plans with their suppliers this morning to confirm that they can now **provide lockdown grocery boxes for all FSM pupils in the weeks ahead if they are not in school. Each box will be for two weeks. Groceries can be delivered to you so that they can prepare and eat lunch at home until they are back in class. If you would like us to place an order for you please can you email Mrs Allison Martin on awilson@stgcc.co.uk or call the school on 02380 322603 and leave a message for her by 11pm this Wednesday 6th January 2021.** By contacting the school and requesting a box please can you also confirm that you give the school consent to share your name, address, contact number and email address with our supplier (Harvest), so that the home delivery can be fulfilled. Unless we have that in writing in an email or you confirm with the receptionist then we cannot process the order.

Laptop/WiFi Access

The Government have a limited number of laptops for pupils who do not have access to one at home. We also have a number of Free Sim cards with 30GB of data for 90 days for students who need internet access to access their lessons remotely. Priority will go to disadvantaged pupils. If you need a laptop or a SIM card to access your lessons remotely please can you email Mr A Bedford on abedford@stgcc.co.uk by next Monday 11th January 2021.

What is a critical worker and what is the definition of a vulnerable pupil?

Critical workers are those who work in the following sections.

Health and social care

This includes, but is not limited to, doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

Education and childcare

This includes childcare, support and teaching staff, social workers, specialist education professionals who must remain active during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response to deliver this approach.

Key public services

This includes those essential to the running of the justice system, charities and workers delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting.

Local and national government

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the coronavirus (COVID-19) response or delivering essential public services, such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arm's length bodies.

Food and other necessary goods

This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines).

Public safety and national security

This includes police, Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, fire and rescue service employees (including support staff), National Crime Agency staff, those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas.

Transport

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

Utilities, communication and financial services

This includes staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure, the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage), information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response, key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services).

Definition of a Vulnerable Pupil:

- *Vulnerable children are children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child.*
- *have an education, health and care (EHC) plan*
- *have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:*
 - *children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services*
 - *adopted children, those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')*
 - *those living in temporary accommodation, those who are young carers*
 - *others at the provider and local authority's discretion*

If you have any questions please get in touch. Stay safe and take care.

Yours sincerely,



James Habberley
Headteacher