

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope you and your family are well and you had a good half term break. We hope you all had a chance to recharge and reflect on what has been a busy and disruptive start to 2021. There is hope that we are now all turning a corner and we can work towards our children returning to school and a positive summer. It was a busy first day with the announcement from the Prime Minister on his roadmap out of the current lockdown and further announcement from OFQUAL/DFE on teacher assessment grades for Year 11 on Thursday. Please see below for details of when your son/daughter should return, information about timetables, as well as details regarding COVID-19 tests we are putting in place. Please do not hesitate to contact myself or the staff team if you have any questions or concerns. I hope you all have a good week.

1: When does my son/daughter return to Saint George?

This will be week commencing Monday 8th March and will take place in a staggered return as below:

Monday 8th March – Year 11 return plus vulnerable students and key worker students who have attended emergency school in all year groups. Year 11 students to be tested for COVID-19 providing they have completed a consent form.

Tuesday 9th March – Year 10 return and will be in school in addition to the above. Year 10 students to be tested providing they have completed a consent form.

Wednesday 10th March – Year 9 return and will be in school in addition to the above. Year 9 students to be tested providing they have completed a consent form.

Thursday 11th March – Year 8 return and will be in school in addition to the above. Year 8 students to be tested providing they have completed a consent form.

Friday 12th March – Year 7 return and will be in school in addition to the above. Year 7 students to be tested providing they have completed a consent form.

Please note all students in Years 7-10 that do not return on Monday 8th March should continue to attend their lessons remotely through MS Teams. Teachers will continue to deliver live lessons until all students have returned by Friday 12th March 2021.

All students should return in full school winter uniform wearing their face covering unless they are medically exempt. In line with Government guidance we continue to expect all students to wear their face covering in lessons as well as communal areas unless medically exempt. Students will follow their timetables as normal for face to face teaching when they return. Please see attached a reminder of the structure of the college day while under COVID restrictions with separate breaks and lunchtimes for year groups.

Please note this will mean that lessons delivered remotely will return to 1-hour lessons and follow the structure of the college day that we had in the autumn term until all students return.

2: School Transport

All dedicated school bus services including the 512 and the 566 and our school minibus service will be working as normal from Monday 8th March 2021 to ensure that all pupils who use this service can get to and from school. The key worker services 306 and 307 will cease from Friday 5th March so those students know to go to their original bus stop.

3: Lateral Flow Testing for COVID 19

Rapid lateral flow testing will be in place to support the safe return of all students to Saint George. **Therefore, if you are happy for your son/daughter to be tested for COVID 19 we would ask that all parents complete the online consent form for their son/daughter by clicking on the link below:**

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=8mJrt-Dz8kini2H46dDMEVtp4Kq856dFtQ8gs_x24nRUNTY5UTNNUkNPNktDWTc0M1Q4QIRMTEMOSC4u

A separate form will need to be completed for each pupil if you have two or more children at the school. This needs to be completed by next Wednesday 3rd March 2021. If you would rather complete a paper copy of the consent form please email medical@stgcc.co.uk and we will post one to you. We are asking for the consent forms ahead of students returning because it will speed up the registration process and reduce the time students are out of lessons. Students will complete in total three lateral flow tests, one each week starting week commencing Monday 8th March 2021, the second week commencing Monday 15th March and the third week commencing Monday 22nd March 2021. Each week testing will take place on the following days:

1. Monday – Year 11
2. Tuesday – Year 10
3. Wednesday – Year 9
4. Thursday – Year 8
5. Friday – Year 7

Once all students, where parents have consented, have completed three tests in school, each pupil will be given home testing kits to test twice a week at home. For the tests in school, students will be called down to our testing centre during the day to be tested by our medical team led by our staff nurse Mrs Terri Chappell. Outside of their test, students will attend lessons as normal. I have attached information about the lateral flow test. Parents will be contacted immediately if the test comes back positive, otherwise please be reassured that if we have not contacted you on the day your son/daughter took the test, it is because it came back negative. We understand the results take about half an hour from testing. **All students will be asked to attend remotely an assembly delivered by their progress leader at 8:40am next Friday 5th March on their year group MS Teams page.** I have also attached our privacy notice and FAQ regarding it if you have any questions about the data being shared. Staff will be testing themselves at home twice a week. To date only two members of staff have tested positive since December 2021. If you have any questions please get in touch.

4: Saliva Testing update

We were hoping that the Saliva Testing programme would start week commencing Monday 1st March 2021 instead of the lateral flow test. However, there are continuing works taking place to ensure the laboratory can test a huge number of samples. This, unfortunately, affects the majority of Southampton Schools. The school has done everything it is supposed to do and if you would like to see our data sharing agreement, privacy notice, current information or how the test works, please visit our COVID-19 page on our website and click on the tab for Saliva Testing:

<https://www.stgcc.co.uk/page/?title=Covid19+%2FSt+George&pid=253>

However, for now, this programme is postponed for us and we press ahead with the lateral flow test. We will review this when we have more information.

5: Year 11: Teacher Assessed Grades: OFQUAL Guidance

The guidance has confirmed that our current Year 11 students' final grades will be based on the teachers' assessment of the standard at which each pupil is performing in each of their subjects. A breadth of evidence will be used in addition to a formal assessment point that we will hold for all Year 11 students in May 2021. Mr Shelley will write to all parents and explain to all students this half term the timetable for the summer assessments. We would like to reassure all Year 11 students and parents that our intention is to support you through this challenging few months in order to make sure that all Year 11 students are able to move forward successfully with the choices they have made whether that is at college, on an apprenticeship or into employment. I would like to confirm that teachers will **NOT** tell students or parents the grades they have submitted to the exam boards. **Students will get their final results from school on Thursday 12th August between 9-11am.** Mr Guyer who is in charge of exams will write to you in the summer term to confirm the details. We look forward to welcoming Year 11 back where we can build on some of the good work from the autumn term and the most recent period of remote learning. As usual, we will be celebrating all students' success both at home and in school in reward assemblies at the end of this term.

6: NEW Electronic Online Access to thousands of Books & Audiobooks for all students; Please join up.....

All pupils have, from this week, the exciting opportunity to choose from thousands of online books that they can read on their phone, tablet or computer at home for free. For KS4, this includes copies of the GCSE English Literature texts. Pupils can even choose from a large number of audiobooks as well. A huge thank you to Miss Barron who is leading this initiative to give all children access to a book with the aim their reading age improves. Parents please support us with encouraging you son/daughter to access this app. Instructions are coming out soon from Miss Barron, but if you have any questions please email her on hbarron@stgcc.co.uk. E-books can be accessed by downloading the SORA app on the Google App Store, Apple App Store or via soraapp.com, then select SORA by Overdrive. Pupils will receive log in details via their year group MS Teams page.

7: Parental Survey Response

Thank you very much for the positive responses to our online parental survey. We received 327 replies and before half term shared these with the staff. We really appreciated it. We are looking this week into the opportunities and areas where we can improve for the benefit of all students. We will share a summary of findings with you all in the next newsletter.

8: Tutor Calls

As all students are returning week commencing Monday 8th March there will be no more tutor calls.

9: Mentoring Day - Tuesday 30th March 2021

Looking ahead to mentoring day at the end of this term, due to the fact that students have been taught remotely we cannot provide current grades or attitude grades as we normally would. Therefore, teachers will be giving a grade between 1 and 5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest) for the following two areas rather than a current grade and three attitude grades in classwork, behaviour and homework.

1. Attendance online
2. Effort online

This will be for all subjects in all year groups. Hopefully our normal reporting will take place again in the summer term. **We intend to hold mentoring day online for Years 7, 8, 10 and 11, but please note Year 9 tutor appointments will be onsite as they have a tutor and an options appointment. Mr Bedford (Assistant Head Teacher) will write to you confirming these details.**

10: Safeguarding - Students

staysafe@stgcc.co.uk

We would encourage students to use the staysafe@stgcc.co.uk for their sensitive mental health and safeguarding issues. The stay safe email address is available for students if they are feeling concerned for their safety, wellbeing or anxiety which is affecting their ability to function as they normally would. This will be looked at daily. Please be aware that if they message staff on MS teams between 8:20am – 3:20pm teachers will be teaching but will respond within three working days. 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.

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

Yours sincerely,



James Habberley
Headteacher