



St John Fisher Catholic High School

EDUCATING FOR LIFE

Hookstone Drive, Harrogate, HG2 8PT

Head Teacher: Mr S Mort B.A. (Hons), NPQH

Telephone: (01423) 887254 Website: www.sjfchs.org.uk Email: office@sjfchs.org.uk

25th August 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

The start of the new school year is fast approaching, and I write to you in advance of the return of staff and students to share details for the start of the academic year 2021-2022.

Covid-19 Safety Measures

On 17th August 2021, the DfE published updated guidance regarding the actions which school leaders should take to reduce the risk of transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). This includes public health advice which is endorsed by Public Health England. Consequently, we are currently revisiting and updating our COVID -19 school risk assessment and ensuring the school site complies with the DfE guidance. A copy of the updated COVID-19 risk assessment will be made available for parents/carers on the school website.

The control measures which the DfE guidance states all schools should have in place are: -

1. Ensuring good hygiene for everyone
2. The maintenance of appropriate cleaning regimes
3. Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated
4. Following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19

Staff, students, and visitors will no longer be required to wear face coverings, social distance, be in bubbles or self-isolate if they are deemed a close contact. There remains the possibility of the reintroduction of some of these mitigating measures if there is a substantial increase in the number of positive cases. The guidance also expects schools to reinforce the importance of everyone adopting the 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' approach.

Within the new guidance, schools are no longer expected to identify close contacts of students who have tested positive - this will be undertaken by NHS Track and Trace who will contact Parents, Carers, and students directly to determine close contacts.





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Asymptomatic Testing

We are required to undertake a programme of Asymptomatic Testing on the school site prior to the return to school for all year groups.

Only students who completed the consent form during the last week of the summer term should attend these tests and arrive at their allocated times. Students must leave the premises immediately after their test. We politely request that, except for Year 7, parents and carers wait for their child in their vehicle or (if on foot) on the path at the front of the school – adjacent to the marquee. A member of staff will be present to direct students to the testing centre.

A summary of the testing programme is set out below.

Date	Year Groups	Times
Thursday 2 nd September	Year 7 (Test 1) Year 11 (Test 1) Year 12 (Test 1) Year 13 (Test 1)	8.30 – 9.30 9.45 – 10.45 11.15 -12.15 12.30 -1.30
Friday 3 rd September	Year 9 (Test 1) Year 10 (Test 1) Year 12 (Test 1) Year 13 (Test 1)	8.30 -9.30 9.45 -10.45 11.15 – 12.15 12.30 -1.30
Monday 6 th September	Year 8 (Test 1) Year 13 (Test 2)	1.30 – 2.30 2.30 – 3.30
Tuesday 7 th September	Year 7 (Test 2) Year 11 (Test 2) Year 12 (Test 2)	Tests will be undertaken during the school day
Wednesday 8 th September	Year 9 (Test 2) Year 10 (Test 2)	
Thursday 9 th September	Year 8 (Test 2)	

If a student has any of the Coronavirus symptoms, they should not attend school for testing, but should isolate and complete a PCR test. You must also inform the school of their absence via office@sjfchs.org.uk





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The school will contact parents/carers where a student receives a positive LFD test. Students who test positive on a lateral flow will need to self-isolate and take a confirmatory PCR test. If the confirmatory PCR is also positive, they must follow the NHS guidance and self-isolate. You must also let the school know of the absence via office@sjfchs.org.uk. If the PCR is negative, the student can return to school.

From 16th of August, close contacts who have either been fully vaccinated or who are under the age of 18 will not need to self-isolate. They will be asked to take a PCR test immediately but will not need to self-isolate whilst awaiting results of the test. If the PCR test is positive, then they will be required to self-isolate for 10 days from the date of the test. NHS Test and Trace will then get in touch to identify any close contacts who may need to get tested.

Additionally, all students will be issued with LFD home test kits for the resumption of twice-weekly LFD testing throughout September. No further guidance has been issued yet regarding any extension to this end date for home testing.

As with our testing schedule prior to the return from remote learning in March, our aim is to balance the priority of getting our students into lessons as soon as possible whilst ensuring that at least one (rather than both) asymptomatic tests are completed. For the start of the academic year, we are also mindful of the need to prioritise the induction of our new students in Years 7 and 12 whose transition programmes have been so disrupted this year.

Staggered start to term arrangements

Monday 6 th September	Staff INSET Day
Tuesday 7 th September	Years 7- first day of term (8.45 a.m.) Years 11 and 12 return to school on this day (8.45 a.m.)
Wednesday 8 th September	Years 8, 9, 10 and 13 return to school on this day (8.45 a.m.)





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We are pleased that many of the restrictions have been lifted for our students and we can now focus entirely on our core purpose of supporting our students with the educational provision which they deserve.

We look forward to welcoming new students to St John Fisher, and the return of all year groups in September for the start of what we earnestly hope will be a far less disruptive and entirely more positive school year.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Mort
Headteacher

