



ST MARGARET WARD CATHOLIC ACADEMY



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Principal: Mr. D. McKenna B.Soc.Sc. MA. PGCE. NPQH.

01A/FurtherInformation/DM/LB

Wednesday, 03 March 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

Further information on the phased return to full opening of school

I am writing with some further information regarding the return to school next week for your son / daughter.

Arrangements for Mass Asymptomatic Testing

As you know, we have been asked by the government to offer self-administered testing to all students across the community with their parent's consent before they return to face to face lessons. This is to help us to identify any potential asymptomatic carriers of Covid-19 to reduce the risk of transmission and also hopefully restrict the amount of disruption to learning due to self-isolation. We have had a hugely positive response to this, which we are very grateful for. Please see the following information below:

- If travelling by car, please do not come onto the school site.
- All staff will be physically in school and the school car parks will be full.
- Please drop off your child in the 'bus lane' on Little Chell Lane and please wait either in the bus lane for your child on Little Chell Lane itself. We are aware that this may cause some issues, but we are very limited for parking and waiting space in the local area. This is something that we, unfortunately, have little control over.
- Students do not need to wear school uniform when they come for their test.

Students should arrive 5 minutes prior to their appointment time, which you have very kindly made through the booking system that we have put into place.

Please see here for the link to book an appointment - [SchoolCloud - St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy](#)

Please also ensure you have completed the consent form prior to booking your appointment. Consent forms can be found here: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=cR09M0500k-9YrJ2K9q9YwnZU2_7CqBEolodcKXJesZUNVRTVzIQtkJPQkYxNjc0MVZFVFg1SjJGNS4u

- Students should walk down the 'top path' and form a queue 2 metres apart by the fire exit door in the main school hall.
- There will be a one-way system in operation for students and they will simply come in, be advised how to take the test, complete the test themselves, and then place the swab into a vial. An instructional video will be made available to students as part of the whole school assembly this Friday to inform and reassure them.
- They will be given a card to register the test on the gov.uk website.
- If a test is returned as positive, then we will telephone you and explain that your child should arrange a confirmatory PCR test through phoning 119 or through the gov.uk website. It is essential that the child and the family start to self-isolate for a period of 10 days from the confirmation of positive lateral flow test. You must keep the school informed by email at: c19@smwca.org.uk as to the result of the PCR test and then we will advise you further.

If you require this information in a different format, please contact the school.



- Students will then return back to you and then you may return home. The testing process will last no more than 5 minutes.
- For the second and third tests within school, students will be taken out of lessons and we acknowledge that there will be some further disruption to learning when this occurs. Please understand that we are simply doing as we have been directed by the Government and we will endeavour do this as efficiently as we can.
- After the third test, students who have gained consent will then receive a home testing kit to bring home with them, which contains full instructions for use. The home testing kits will be provided for the student concerned only and are not for wider family usage. Tests for the wider family can be either administered or collected from a local testing site during specific test collection time windows. Details of how to locate your nearest site are below.

[COVID Test Finder \(test-and-trace.nhs.uk\)](https://test-and-trace.nhs.uk)

What about remote learning during the slot for testing?

- Students should continue to engage with remote learning until their year group returns to school for normal lessons **unless they are attending an appointment for a test.**
- When a year group are being tested, it is our expectation that teachers will **not deliver live lessons or share any new specific learning content.**
- Your child's teacher will set some consolidation activities that students can engage with if they are waiting to travel into school for their test later on in the morning/afternoon or have returned home/back to class following their appointment.
- Students **will not** be expected to catch up on missed lessons, because this would put undue pressure on them, particularly if they have spent time travelling to and from school.

On return to school

- Mr Johnson wrote to everyone on Tuesday with specific details of when children in each year group will be returning for face to face lessons. Please refer to this letter for lots of detailed information about how this will look for your child and how we will look after your child as they return to school.
- Due to range of issues with our catering suppliers, **we will be unable to offer any hot or cold food for students until at least Monday 22 March 2021.**
 - We will continue to provide a cold packed lunch for students who receive free school meals, as we have done throughout this academic year.
 - Students who do receive free school meals will be able to make a choice of cheese, tuna, ham or egg sandwiches.
 - Students who do not receive free school meals must bring in their own packed lunch as from when they return to school.
 - From the 22nd March we hope to be in a position to make hot food available to students in all year groups. More information on this will follow.
- Please accept our apologies in this case, as this is out of our immediate control. We will, of course keep you updated as to when this will change and when specific year groups will be able to buy hot and cold food.
- We have installed a number of water fountains for students to refill their water bottles throughout the day. We will share where these are with your child. You may wish to consider your child bringing in a reusable water bottle for this.

If you require this information in a different format, please contact the school.



Can I thank you for your continued support at this time. We know that there is a mountain of information that we are passing onto you and that there is always the risk of 'information overload'. We have tried and will continue to try to be as succinct as possible in sharing details with you and distilling all of the information that we, as a school, receive and have to pass onto you.

As I'm sure you appreciate the scale of what we are being asked to do over the coming weeks has presented us with some challenges and, whilst we endeavour to do our very best to ensure everything runs smoothly, there are likely to be some occasions when this may not be possible. Thank you in advance for bearing with us.

As always, if you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to get back to either Mrs Farrer (hfarrer@smwca.org.uk) for Years 7, 8 and 9 queries. For Years 10 to 13 queries, please email Mr Johnson at pjohnson@smwca.org.uk

Yours faithfully



Mr D McKenna
Principal

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