



3 March 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

I hope this letter finds you, your extended family and all your loved ones safe and well as we continue to face the challenges of COVID-19.

The experience of this last year has had a profound effect on all in our school and wider community. Managing the changes and challenges to our professional and home lives has taken its toll, as well as dealing with the additional burdens of balancing working from home whilst supporting your children's remote learning, dealing with periods of illness, isolation and very sadly, experiencing the loss of loved ones and the inevitable grief which follows.

St Paul's is very much a school family and it is heartening how we have worked together as a family in meeting the challenges and giving support to each other.

I am delighted we will shortly be welcoming students back to the Academy. There will be a transitional return in order to support the wellbeing of our students, as well as accommodating the Government requirements on Lateral Flow Testing for those who have consented. As part of our pre-return preparations your child has been asked to complete a Wellbeing Survey which has been uploaded onto Google Classroom and they will be required to submit their completed form via Google Classroom by Sunday 7 March.

At the end of this letter you will find further details of the arrangements for the return of each year group. Please read the information carefully, as arrangements differ from day to day and for each year group.

I appreciate for Year 11 there has been additional anxiety and uncertainty with the awarding of their Key Stage 4 qualifications. Further correspondence will be sent by the end of next week outlining the Teacher Assessment Grades process that the Academy will be using following guidance from Ofqual and the examination boards.

Due to the logistics of Lateral Flow Testing and Reconnection to School sessions, we are unable to provide places for the children of key workers and we thank families for making other arrangements.

For those who have provided consent for their child to take part in the Lateral Flow Testing, please see the attached poster for further information on the testing process.

The testing clinic timetable has been provided by the Local Authority, as have the trained staff who will be running the clinic, who will be available to advise and guide students with the self-testing.

The opening of schools marks another positive stage in the easing of Coronavirus restrictions and hopefully a successful and full exit from lockdown. However, it is essential that we continue to take measures to prevent and reduce the risk of transmission. To this end, I would remind you that if your child displays any of the symptoms that have been linked to COVID-19 you must keep them at home and book a PCR test.





Possible symptoms include:

- A high temperature: any new high temperature where your child feels hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure the temperature) but for information a high temperature is 37.8 or above.
- A new, continuous cough: coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours.
- A loss of, or change in, sense of taste or smell: a noticeable loss of smell or taste or things smell and taste different to normal.
- Sore throat
- Stomach upset
- Persistent headache

If your child tests positive for COVID-19, they and your household will be required to self-isolate for ten days. You will also be required to inform the Academy in order for necessary action to be taken to prevent further spread of the virus.

If your child becomes ill whilst onsite, they will be seen by a First Aider who will be wearing full PPE and then taken to the designated medical room where they will be chaperoned until they are collected from school by a family member. You will be advised upon arrival to use the Reception intercom at the school gate, where instructions for collection will be given.

**Please make sure you have informed the Academy of any changes to mobile numbers or e-mail, so that in an emergency, swift contact may be made with you.**

It is very important that good respiratory hygiene is maintained: Catch it, Bin it, Kill it. Also, frequent handwashing is essential, as well as the use of sanitizers when necessary.

In addition, the Government has issued guidance on the wearing of face coverings in educational settings as a further preventative measure and an information sheet and copy of this guidance is attached to this letter.

This is a temporary measure, which the Government will review at Easter with health experts to decide whether evidence suggests if this measure and others can be eased ahead of the Summer term.

Please refer to our updated Health & Safety Risk Assessment, which can be found on the Home page of the Academy website: About the School/Policies.

I would thank you and ask for your continued support in making sure your child has everything they need for school each day, including:

- Filled water bottle (water fountains will continue to be switched off as a preventative measure)
- School Planner
- Swipe Card
- Personal Sanitiser
- Umbrella
- Dark coloured coat with a hood
- Face Coverings (one for travelling to/from school and another for use at school)
- Full school uniform and P.E uniform to be worn on the days when a P.E lesson is scheduled

Please also remind your child how they can help reduce the transmission rate on their journey to and from school by adhering to the remaining lockdown rules for association, going straight home and where possible, walking rather than using public transport. Please remind your child that they must wear a face covering at all times whilst using public transport.

I would like to assure you that when the students return they will be fully briefed on the ways they are being kept safe whilst on site and the need for them to fully abide by these measures. Any student who deliberately acts against these rules will be immediately sent home in order to protect the safety of other students and the wider school community. Follow-up communication will be made to their parent/carer stating the time they left the campus. In such serious times, a zero tolerance approach will have to be adopted in order to safeguard the school community.

Thank you for your continued support and best wishes; it is greatly appreciated by myself and all of the staff of St Paul's.

With kind regards,



**Miss S Malone**  
**Principal**