



ST PAUL'S ACADEMY

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Principal: Miss S Malone B.D. Hons

31 December 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

I hope you and all your family are safe and keeping well in these continuing difficult and uncertain times.

You will be aware Gavin Williamson (The Secretary of State for Education) announced on Wednesday 30th December, new arrangements for the opening of schools for the beginning of the Spring Term in response to the increasing transmission of C-19 and the burden this places on the NHS.

It has been necessary, for public health reasons, to delay the onsite return of our students. The Government have advised that Year 11 should return to onsite teaching and learning from Monday 11th January, and Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 to return on site from Monday 18th January. This may be subject to change following further announcements from the Government.

This staggered return will give more time for the rollout of testing. This will find asymptomatic cases and help break chains of transmission, making it as safe as possible for students and staff to return to face-to-face education and it will also help to protect vulnerable members of the wider school community.

All students, from Monday 4th January, will commence their studies online using our remote learning platform of Google Classroom where they will receive high quality remote education reflecting their normal timetabled lessons. Please encourage your children to participate as fully as possible with their lessons.

From 4th January, provision for learning will be made on site for vulnerable students, or children of critical key workers. Please email Ms Tudor, Vice Principal emily.tudor@stpauls.greenwich.sch.uk requesting on site provision for your child, if your child falls into either of these categories.

Greenwich Council has arranged for a mass screening programme to take place before students return to school. Mass testing will take place at Charlton Athletic Football Club on 2nd, 3rd and 4th January 2021. You do not need to have symptoms to be tested.

Those eligible for the testing are:

1. Young people in Year 11 and Year 13 attending schools in Royal Greenwich.
2. Secondary-aged children of critical workers who are returning to school in Royal Greenwich.
3. Secondary-aged vulnerable children who are returning to school in Royal Greenwich.
4. Young people attending alternative provision in Royal Greenwich.
5. Students attending Shooters Hill College.
6. All staff working in secondary schools in Royal Greenwich.

7. All staff working at Shooters Hill College

To book an appointment visit <https://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/school-covid-tests>

These tests are not mandatory, but we are being advised that it would be beneficial to take part in the testing programme being offered.

Greenwich Council are also putting in place a pilot programme for testing at schools and as soon as I receive further information I will update you.

In the meantime it is important we all play our part in reducing the transmission of C-19 in our communities by strictly adhering to the restrictions of being in Tier 4, including staying at home unless there is a reasonable excuse such as work or education, or shopping for essentials such as food or medicine, not meeting people indoors unless you live with them or they are part of your support bubble, the use of masks in public settings, and of course to continue good respiratory hygiene and frequent handwashing.

I thank you for your continued support, understanding and prayers, and close with a blessing.

God of Love,

You are always close to us,
particularly during times of difficulty and change.

As we enter into this New Year, with excitement and some anxiety,
we recall your deep compassion for us, your holy presence with us,
and your healing love for us.

We thank you for the talents and skills with which you have blessed us.

We thank you for the experiences that have brought us to this moment.

We thank you for the work of others who keep us safe
and who call us to become the best version of ourselves.

Be with us as we journey that we may support one another.

As we rejoice in this season of your birth may we work together
to bring new life and healing to one another.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, who in all time, walks alongside us. Amen.

May you and your family have a blessed and safe New Year.

With my very best wishes,



Siobhan Malone
Principal