

St. Bernard's High School

A CATHOLIC ACADEMY FOR ARTS AND SCIENCE



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AMD / zmb

2 September 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

As we return from the summer holidays, I just wanted to remind you of how we will be continuing to work to keep our school community safe as COVID restrictions have been lifted.

In line with government guidance, we will be returning on a staggered start to the autumn term to facilitate testing. The details of the testing programme will be sent to you separately and were partly outlined in the letter you received from Mr Sharpe on 20th August. We look forward to welcoming your child back.

Please help us to keep our school community safe by discussing the following with your child and ensuring that your child is aware of its importance:

Starting the new academic year

I ask all parents of children in Years 8-13 to ensure that students have conducted a Covid19 test at home in the two days before their scheduled return, and that students are not sent to school if they test positive or exhibit Covid-like symptoms. We also ask that you complete an online consent form for testing asap. The link is below:

<https://forms.office.com/r/hRkC5wDLtF>

As we are using the facilities of Essex University, I have attached to this letter further information from them and how information may be shared / used. I ask that parents continue to encourage their children to test twice weekly at home and to log the results in TestRegister. A reminder of how to do this is also attached to this letter.

All students are required to be tested twice on their return to school. Your child will receive a registration card on the day before they are due to be tested with instructions for registration. It is vital that your child returns the next day with this same registration card. You will receive a separate email to confirm the dates that your child will be tested.

Travel to and from school

Please remember that face coverings on TfL is mandatory and strongly advised / encouraged on public transport outside of London. We would expect all students who attend St Bernard's (unless exempt) to wear a face covering whilst on public transport as a means of keeping themselves and our whole school community safe.

During the school day

Whilst face masks are no longer compulsory in schools, we recognise that some students and adults may feel more comfortable wearing them where there are higher volumes of students and staff moving around (i.e. in corridors). Therefore, face coverings will be permitted in such circumstances but not in classrooms or in assemblies. We expect every student to have a face covering with them at all times in case the need arises to put in place this safety measure.

Students will be expected to continue to uphold the hygiene routines that we have put in place including:

- sanitising before and upon leaving the classroom / site
- washing hands when it is possible to do so at break and lunch time
- maintaining a 1+ metre distance from staff

We continue to update our COVID risk assessment and the most recent version has been shared on our website.

The government requires schools to outline how they will manage a localised outbreak within school and how we will continue to work with the LA and local Health Agencies. I am confident that if the school community follow the above measures, we can mitigate this risk. However, should we be in a position where we do have a localised outbreak within the school, we will re-implement measures as necessary such as the reintroduction of face masks, bubbles etc should the need arise.

We will also continue to make students aware of the measures that we have in place and to explain to them the importance of following our rules to maintain the safety of all.

Government guidelines are frequently updated. We will keep you posted should further changes occur.

Kind regards



Mrs A. Moise-Dixon
Headteacher