

Friday 5th March 2021



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Reminder on procedures for the return to school – week commencing 8th March 2021

Please see below information reminders in relation to students' staggered return to school, updated government guidance and school safety procedures:

Lateral Flow Testing in School:

The Government stated "Secondary schools should offer pupils testing at an on-site ATS from 8 March. Testing and return of pupils can be phased during the first week to manage the number of pupils passing through the test site at any one time. Three tests, 3 to 5 days apart."

Due to this, we have arranged a staggered return to school and asked all parents to complete a consent form to confirm whether they wish to participate in the onsite testing. If you are yet to complete this form, please do so before Monday 8th March. **Consent Form:** <https://forms.gle/wUBgundrNkVLvFuv6>

Once pupils have been tested 3 times at school, they will be provided with home test kits for regular testing, twice per week. Further details will be provided on the distribution of these kits next week.

Staggered Return to School:

There will be a staggered return to school over the first 3 days from the 8th March. Once students have returned to school, they will remain in school and normal timings will resume. All students will commence normal timetabled lessons once they have been through their first testing slot. Keyworker and vulnerable students can continue to attend school as normal.

NB: Year 11 will finish school at 3:20 pm for the first week and after school interventions will commence from 15th March.

Year Group/ Forms	Monday 8 th March	Tuesday 9 th March	Wednesday 10 th March
Year 11 MICH	8:30 am Arrival – Testing Period 1	Attend school as normal.	
Year 11 AELS	9:30 am Arrival – Testing Period 2		
Year 10 MICH	10:45 am Arrival – Testing Period 3		
Year 10 AELS	11:45 am Arrival – Testing Period 4		
Year 9 MICH	Remote Learning	8:30 am Arrival – Testing Period 1	Attend school as normal.
Year 9 AELS		9:30 am Arrival – Testing Period 2	
Year 7 MICH		10:45 am Arrival – Testing Period 3	
Year 7 AELS		11:45 am Arrival – Testing Period 4	
Year 8 MICH		Remote Learning	8:30 am Arrival – Testing Period 1
Year 8 AELS			9:30 am Arrival – Testing Period 2
Year 8 ST			10:45 am Arrival – Testing Period 3

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Face Coverings:

In accordance with updated DfE guidelines, we expect our students to wear face coverings at all times in school.

“In addition, we now also recommend that in those settings where pupils and students in year 7 and above are educated, face coverings should be worn in classrooms and during activities unless social distancing can be maintained. This does not apply in situations where wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, for example in PE lessons.” DfE, Face Coverings in Education

Whilst exemptions may apply for those with physical or mental health difficulties, we would encourage the wearing of a visor/face shield as an alternative. These measures will be in place until Easter.

Safety Around School:

We would also like to reassure you that the safety of staff and students in school is my key priority and, alongside testing and the use of face coverings, we will continue to observe the protective measures that were in place prior during the third national lockdown: regular hand hygiene, ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’, physical distancing, and maintenance of school zones and bubbles.

What happens if my child’s Lateral Flow Test is positive?

If students do test positive, the school will expect parents to collect them from school as soon as possible. Students will remain isolated until collected. Students will have to self-isolate for 10 days in line with Government guidance.

What happens if my child’s Lateral Flow Test is negative?

Students can continue to attend school in the normal way. Testing does not remove the need for everyone to follow NHS guidance to ‘catch it, kill it and bin it’, socially distance, keep good hand hygiene, wear face coverings and maintain good ventilation when inside.

How can I order lunch for my child?

We are continuing to run the online ordering system for school lunches. Please use this link to order lunch for your child: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdb2-GIunCkJ5TrvyTkh7BDzCOQKHpl3ING8ladEJyDykh2A/viewform>

What if I have questions?

The NHS and Government websites provide plenty of information about COVID-19 and the testing requirements; if you have a specific question about how the testing will take place at St Michael’s, please contact us on:

contact@st-michaels.sandwell.sch.uk

Yours faithfully,



Jayne Gray
Headteacher