



Dear Parents and Carers

1 March 2021

I hope you are well, and you and your family had a good break over the half term holiday.

I am writing to you following the Prime Minister's announcements on Monday evening about the 'roadmap' to students returning to school from 8<sup>th</sup> March. **Please read all of this letter carefully as it contains vital information regarding the return to school and asymptomatic testing.** Please take the time to discuss these with your child(ren), and raise any queries with their Head of Key Stage in the first instance.

### Initial asymptomatic coronavirus testing

As a key part of making the school safe for students' return we will be testing all students, prior to their return to the classroom, using the now well-established Lateral Flow Devices (LFDs, also sometimes referred to as 'rapid coronavirus tests'). These devices allow us to identify students or staff who may be carrying coronavirus but are not showing any symptoms (estimated to be 1 in 3 Covid-19 cases nationally). The devices give a result after 30 minutes; we have been successfully using these devices throughout Term 3 with students and staff in our 'Key Workers' and 'Vulnerable Students' provision.

Prior to students' return, we need parents to complete an online form to either:

- Grant permission for us to use LFD testing with your child
- Not grant permission for us to use LFD testing with your child

**It is vital that we receive a response from all parents ahead of students' return.** If you have already completed the permission form please accept my thanks; you do not need to complete the form for a second time.

The permission form is available here: <https://forms.gle/D1bKidmTdGFZmAri6>

The first asymptomatic test will take place the day before each year group returns to school.

We are using our parents' evening booking software to arrange testing bookings.

Please go to the school Portal <https://portal.stdunstansschool.com>, click on General and then select Parents evening. Please note that we will be asking parents to drop off and collect their child at a specified time during their year group's testing day.

It is not compulsory for any student to undertake the LFD tests, and we will not apply any pressure on students to do so. Where consent has been granted, we will always check with the student prior to a test that they are happy to continue. Students for whom we do not have permission to complete the LFD tests will return to school with other students according to the schedule below, but **we would encourage all students to take part in the programme to help us ensure St Dunstan's School remains as safe a place as possible** on students' return to the classroom.





## Timings of students' return

Students will be able to return to school on the day immediately following their negative coronavirus test result. Our testing and return to school schedule is as follows:

Year Group	Asymptomatic testing date	Return to school date
11	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March
9 and 10	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March
7 and 8	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> March

## Further in-school asymptomatic coronavirus testing

Following students' initial LFD tests, we will be carrying out a further two LFD tests (three in total) to identify any potentially undetected cases coming into school. These tests will help your child learn how to test themselves in preparation for home testing. The tests will take place 3-5 days apart. The schedule for this is shown below. Students will complete the additional tests within the school day, and will be called from lessons to complete the tests. If any positive cases are identified, parents will be consulted prior to discussing the result with the student.

## At-home asymptomatic coronavirus testing

Following the three in-school tests, the Department for Education will be supplying schools with home-test kits for their students. I will write again shortly with further details of this programme; students will self-test twice weekly to minimise the possibility of asymptomatic coronavirus cases coming into school.

## Face coverings (masks) in school

The Department for Education's advice on face coverings has changed for the period 8<sup>th</sup> March to Easter. **All students should wear face coverings at all times, including in lessons**, other than when students are spending time outdoors in a socially distanced manner (including while eating), or when completing practical PE lessons.

It is important that students have a supply of at least two face coverings each day, so that they are not wearing damp or soiled masks at any point during the school day. We strongly advise that students carry unworn masks in a plastic bag to avoid contamination prior to wearing, and that reusable masks are washed daily.

We expect all students to wear face coverings other than where a medical reason exists which would prevent this. If you believe your child falls into this category, please contact Mr Oakwood (Assistant

Headteacher, Pastoral: [coakwood@stdunstansschool.com](mailto:coakwood@stdunstansschool.com)) ahead of 8<sup>th</sup> March to apply for an exemption lanyard which we would ask your child to wear at all times while on school premises.





### **Actions in the event of a positive coronavirus case**

If a student tests positive after their return to school, we will, in consultation with public health, require students in the same bubble to self-isolate for 10 days. They should continue their twice weekly test during this time.

### **School day timings**

No changes are taking place to our timings of the school day. Students will access and leave the school site via their designated year group entrance. School starts at 8.50am for all students. The day ends at:

- 3.10pm for Year 7 and 8 students
- 3.15pm for students in Year 9,10 and 11

We would like to take this opportunity to remind students that they must follow the national lockdown regulations when away from the school site – this is currently the ‘rule of two’ while students are walking home from school; within the rule of two, social distancing must be strictly adhered to.

### **School transport**

Normal school transport will remain in operation from 9<sup>th</sup> March, following previously published schedules. Please remind your son/daughter of their **legal obligation** to wear a face covering on any form of public transport, including dedicated school transport.

### **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March**

Ahead of students’ return, we will be using Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March as a training day for staff. We will not be setting work on this day, to allow students to complete any outstanding work. We expect all students (including those in the key worker and vulnerable student provision) to be at home on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March to allow for staff training and a full deep clean of the school before students return.

In the week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> March we will set work online for year groups who are not yet in school, however all lessons will be task based and will not be live or recorded lessons.

**Please remember to complete the permission form for asymptomatic testing and book an appointment using our online booking system.**

We are all really looking forward to having our students back in school – and we know our students are every bit as excited!

Yours sincerely

Keith Howard  
Headteacher



### Checklist for return to school in March 2021

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Complete permission form - to grant permission or not grant permission for LFD testing <a href="https://forms.gle/D1bKidmTdGFZmArj6">https://forms.gle/D1bKidmTdGFZmArj6</a></li></ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Book test appointment <a href="https://portal.stdunstansschool.com">https://portal.stdunstansschool.com</a>, go to General, then select Parents Evening</li></ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Make a note of the day your child returns to school - <i>See table above</i></li></ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ensure your child has at least two clean face coverings each day (Face coverings should be worn at all times including lessons)</li></ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Note that 5th March is a training day for staff</li></ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ensure your child has their uniform, equipment and school books prepared for the 2021 timetable (This can be found on the portal and was given out at the end of term 2)</li></ul>	