



# St Francis of Assisi Catholic College

Nil Satis Optimum

- Only the best is good enough -

26<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

There have been a number of announcements this week and I have been conscious not to communicate too soon because some of the initial information has either been vague or subject to change. What follows are some key headings which share our approach for returning to school, and I trust that this serves as a framework to work towards. I will write again next week with updates.

## Testing and Returning to school

Many of you gave consent for Lateral Flow Testing in readiness for January. That consent still stands but if you have not yet responded, I ask that you do so by pressing the following link so we can test as many students as possible. [Link to consent form](#)

Student testing will be done in school and the table below shares the order of both testing and how students will return to school in a phased way as of Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Y11 return to school for lessons and are tested throughout the day.</li></ul>
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Y11 in normal lessons.</li><li>6<sup>th</sup> Form return to school for lessons and are tested throughout the day.</li></ul>
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Y11 &amp; 6<sup>th</sup> Form in normal lessons.</li><li>Y10 return to school for lessons and are tested throughout the day.</li></ul>
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Y11, 6<sup>th</sup> Form &amp; Y10 in normal lessons.</li><li>Y7 return to school for lessons and are tested throughout the day.</li></ul>
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Y11, 6<sup>th</sup> Form, Y10 &amp; Y7 in normal lessons.</li><li>Y8 return to school for lessons and are tested throughout the day.</li></ul>
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Y11, 6<sup>th</sup> Form, Y10, Y7 &amp; Y8 in normal lessons.</li><li>Y9 return to school for lessons and are tested throughout the day.</li></ul>
<b>By the end of Monday 15<sup>th</sup> all who have consented will have been tested</b>	
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Pastoral morning (Form, P1 and p2) then normal lessons

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The order of students returning is based on the Government guidance that Years 10-13 should be prioritised. As part of the return remote learning will continue until back in school but if we can accelerate testing to get more students back to face to face learning any earlier then we will. I will communicate if this is the case.

We will then proceed to routinely testing students when they are all in school before the week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> March when home test kits will be made available.

Please be aware of the following three points:

- If someone has tested positive in the last 90 days then they are exempt from lateral flow testing. If they still choose to test and the result returns as positive then they will have to isolate for 10 days.
- If anyone has already had a vaccination then it is advised that they are still tested in school, just in case they are carrying the virus.
- If someone has not consented to testing then they return with the rest of their year group as part of the phased plan.

### **Transport**

All bus services will be recommence from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March and payments should resume accordingly please.

### **Catering**

The canteen will reopen as of Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March and ParentPay remains the payment mechanism.

### **Covid**

If anyone has symptoms or is positive with Covid 19 they should not return to school. I am making additions to the Risk Assessment which will be available on the website next week and our site is as Covid safe as it can be. We will still insist on good hand and respiratory hygiene and ensuring hands, face and space are at the heart of our practice.

We will move to face coverings being worn in classrooms up until Easter. We know this may be uncomfortable and not ideal but to reduce any risk it is a positive step. The only students who would be exempt are those who cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical impairment or disability, illness or mental health difficulties or is a person who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expression to communicate.

Rather than face masks, if students are more comfortable wearing a visor then this is very acceptable.

### **Isolations**

Based on the latest guidance, if a positive case is identified in school then not only will the individual, but also close contacts have to isolate for 10 days. I share this in advance because whilst there is light at the end of the tunnel, there is still the possibility that small numbers may have to isolate. If there are cases those impacted will be informed accordingly.

## **Teaching and Learning**

Our approach to students returning is based on the quote below by Aristotle:

**“Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all”**

As a staff, leadership team and Governing Body, we are fully committed to elevating and accelerating our students not just academically but also more widely after this turbulent time. With this in mind we are committed to the following ‘R’s’.

**Re-map/ Routines/ Relationships/ Research & Retrieve/ Reward.**

By focussing on these we will ensure that the curriculum is appropriate, that everyone reintegrates positively, that we identify and narrow gaps and celebrate the positives.

## **Exams**

A letter will be shared by Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March about how grades will be determined for Year 11 and 13 students. The Government and Ofqual released separate documentation yesterday so we will take some time to digest this and then share the plan of how we will support students through this process.

## **Catch- up**

We will avoid the idea that all students need to ‘catch up’ and that nothing has been achieved of late. We will celebrate the lots of excellent work done by students and we don’t subscribe to the idea that all students are irreversibly behind. We will do further work on our approach to support elevating student work and closing gaps and will be able to share this with you in due course.

Thank you

Luke Salkeld

Headteacher