



STONYHURST ST MARY'S HALL

24th February 2021

Dear Parents,

The Return to Learning at Stonyhurst for Everyone

We are delighted with the UK Government announcement on Monday that schools may fully re-open from Monday 8th March. Official guidance has now been published (although some details are yet to be confirmed) and this letter is to give you initial information about the arrangements to welcome all Stonyhurst pupils back to living and learning here on the campus. This is following the positive statement from the government about the clear roadmap to a full reopening and relaxation of all restrictions in the UK by the end of the summer term. This is a significant moment for the SMH school community and this note is written in a spirit of great anticipation, and with much hope for the latter stages of this term ahead of an exciting summer term here at SMH.

The health and well-being of our whole Stonyhurst community is our top priority and we shall continue to take every precaution necessary. Staff will be asked to test twice weekly and we shall continue to closely observe the latest guidance with regard to mask wearing, social distancing and all the other precautions set out in our risk assessments. These will be updated again to reflect any changes prior to the return to school and the latest version may always be found on the website.

Day pupils

Primary aged pupils from Foundation Stage through to Upper Elements inclusive are free to return to school and commence face-to-face lessons on Monday 8th March. At the time of writing there is no requirement for primary aged children to be tested.

As things stand, on this day, it is also our ambition to undertake the first of three lateral flow tests onsite for all returning secondary aged pupils in Figures and Rudiments whose parents provide consent. As I am sure you will appreciate this is a considerable logistical undertaking which will take the whole of the school day to complete; it will require patience and understanding. Once each individual pupil has taken their test they will be free to return home with their parents and await the confirmation of the test result. Receipt of a negative test will enable pupils to start school the following day, Tuesday 9th March. Government regulations detail that pupils should be encouraged to be tested in school two further times, 3-5 days apart after this initial test. Pupils will then be asked to test twice weekly on an ongoing basis and it is our understanding that home testing kits will be provided to families in order to facilitate this process for day pupils.

Further details regarding the timings and logistics of the lateral flow testing day on Monday March 8th for Figures and Rudiments returning pupils will be sent out under separate cover next week. This will be accompanied by the necessary parental consent and GDPR letter, which is a legal requirement and will need to be completed in advance for all children being tested under the age of 16.

Full Boarders

UK

Pupils will be required to undertake a lateral flow test onsite upon arrival, with a confirmed negative result a condition of entry prior to admission to the boarding house.





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Mr Stokes will co-ordinate times of arrival and liaise with parents about their travel plans in the week ahead.

Overseas

Where pupils meet the UK entry requirements and have travelled through a 'Red List' country in the previous 10 days they must have quarantined in a managed quarantine hotel for 10 days and received two negative covid tests before onward travel.

Pupils travelling to England from other, non-red list, countries will need to have quarantined with family members or guardians and must have arranged for themselves to be tested on days two and eight after arrival. These must both be negative before onward travel to Stonyhurst.

SMH is to operate only full and weekly boarding from 8th March, and will not be able to offer any flexi boarding or occasional stays this term. This will be reviewed prior to the start of the summer term.

Stonyhurst Anywhere

We appreciate that some overseas pupils will not be able to return to campus before the summer term and we shall maintain some online provision throughout the rest of this term. All teachers and support staff are returning to classrooms and teaching live in situ at SMH, therefore online participation will be different to the full remote provision at present. Teachers and other key staff will maintain frequent contact with any pupil who continues to learn at home via email and the Microsoft Teams function.

The Activities Programme

A balanced and risk assessed programme after the teaching day will commence for all children in the Pre-Prep, Prep and Elements on Monday 8th March, and will begin the following day for Figures and Rudiments (Tuesday 9th March). The detail of the programme will be relevant up until Easter, and the sign-up procedure via CHQ software is to be sent to parents early next week.

Easter holidays and return to summer term

All boarding pupils will be required to either return home or go to UK based guardians from 25th March for the Easter break.

The summer term begins on 14th April; however, we shall offer quarantine accommodation to boarders that require this from 5th April. Mr Stokes will liaise with families on an individual basis regarding any requirements. Accommodation and a camp will be provided during the May half term break for all overseas boarders for whom this would be helpful to avoid unnecessary travel.

Further guidance is likely to be issued by the Government over the next few days and we will keep you informed of any changes to our current plans.

It will be a huge pleasure to welcome your sons and daughters back to SMH. It has been such a long period since the final days of last term, just as we broke up for the Christmas holiday. The full complement of SMH children is set to breathe great life into the buildings and I am already excited about the opportunities and experiences at an individual and collective level that are soon set to unfold. Much better times now lie ahead!



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It is the warmth and care afforded by the tangible human connections that underpin all that the school intends for the individual child. This has been enabled extensively by the developments in *Stonyhurst Anywhere* (and the necessary on-site provision in recent months) in these difficult circumstances.

As you know better than anyone, our staff has risen magnificently to the challenges of Covid-19, and one of the joys of this challenging last 12 months has been to witness how pupils, families and colleagues alike have been wonderfully supportive of each other, as well as providing an outstanding continuity of education for pupils. We are now setting about our plan to bring the fullest Stonyhurst experience back into a full reality for the children and our families. The extensive reconnections for the SMH community from the 8th March will allow our dream for the children to take a further leap.

With every best wish,

Ian Murphy
Headmaster



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