

27 August 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Senior School New Academic Year

I hope this letter finds you well and that you have enjoyed the summer Exeat despite the ongoing challenges of the pandemic. In schools, we now find ourselves in a different phase, with many of the COVID-related restrictions that have impacted on children's education during the past eighteen months lifted. As you can imagine, we are keen that the children return to as normal a school experience as possible, given the disruption they have faced, however we are also mindful that the virus remains a source of anxiety and indeed a threat to many. We continue to adhere to the government guidance, as has been our position throughout the pandemic, and thus we would like to draw your attention to the following arrangements for Michaelmas term 2021 detailed below.

COVID-19 asymptomatic testing programme (lateral flow testing)

The Department for Education has requested that all secondary-aged children are once again tested on-site using Lateral Flow Device tests at the start of term. We will be testing according to the below schedule which we have designed to ensure minimal disruption to teaching and learning.

Test 1 will take place before the start of term to ensure all children have had a negative test before returning to school. You will receive a text message with an individual time. Testing will be taking place in the Sports Hall and students should not wait around on site for their test result: as before they will be given a registration card to process at home to receive their result. Only students will be able to come on site during this testing process.

Test 2 will require children to leave their lesson briefly for their test. Form tutors will give students their individual time slots for this.

Year Group	Test 1	Test 2
Year 13 (13 I, K, L)	Friday 3 September 1330 onwards	Tuesday 7 September 1330 onwards
Year 13 (13 F, G, K)	Thursday 2 September 1330 onwards	Tuesday 7 September 1330 onwards
Year 12	Thursday 2 September 0900 onwards	Tuesday 7 September 1330 onwards
Year 11	Friday 3 September 1330 onwards	Wednesday 8 September 0900 onwards
Year 10	Thursday 2 September 1330 onwards	Tuesday 7 September 0900 onwards
Year 9 (9 H, I, J)	Thursday 2 September 0900 onwards	Monday 6 September 1330 onwards
Year 9 (9 F, G)	Wednesday 1 September 1330 onwards	Monday 6 September 1330 onwards
Year 8	Wednesday 1 September 1330 onwards	Monday 6 September 0900 onwards
Year 7	Tuesday 31 August 1330 onwards	Friday 3 September during induction

We would additionally request that all families complete their first home LFD test over the weekend of 4/5 September in order to restart the routine of twice weekly testing at home which will need to continue throughout September, pending further government announcements. We will be distributing new home testing kits in the first week of term however if you have no tests left, you can also request some from [this link](#). Results are reported through the government coronavirus website. You only need to report a household result to the College if it is positive and will result in your child needing to self-isolate. The College will only be able to distribute lateral flow tests for use by our own students.

COVID-19 positive cases and self-isolation

You will doubtless be aware from the media that self-isolation rules were amended in August 2021. As previously, if your child displays any symptoms of COVID-19 or has a positive test, your child must not be sent to school as per the [government guidance](#) and a PCR test must be arranged. If your child exhibits any COVID-19 symptoms at school, you will be required to collect them from school as soon as possible and keep them at home until a negative PCR test result has been confirmed or self-isolation has finished if the result is positive. A reminder that the [current self-isolation period](#) is **the day of** a positive test result or of onset of symptoms **plus** a further ten full days. Notifications are as follows:

- My child has a positive coronavirus test result or COVID symptoms – Mrs McLellan Deputy Head Pastoral / DSL

Children aged under 18 years and 6 months no longer need to self-isolate if they have been in close contact with a positive case. Year 13 students aged over this age will need to self-isolate if they have contact with a positive case until/unless they have had two doses of the vaccine plus 14 days.

Test and Trace of close contacts will be handled by the NHS and will no longer be run by the College.

Pastoral Support and Wellbeing

Although it has been some time since our last full lockdown, we expect some students will continue to need individualised support. We are pleased that we have been able to increase our school counselling provision to support students in need for the entirety of the academic year 2021-22. Our peer mentoring programme and mental health first aid training will also be resuming. If your child is feeling particularly worried about their return or you have other pastoral concerns, we would be grateful if you could inform your child's Form Tutor before 3 September to allow time for supportive measures to be discussed. If you are already in dialogue with your child's pastoral care team regarding an ongoing concern, please do get in touch to discuss their wellbeing over the summer and the plan for settling back to school in September.

Arrival details – Monday 6 September 2021

On the first day back on site, all students will start back at normal time (0815), but we will continue to ask students to use different entrances now that we have more space on our redeveloped site. There will be extended tutor time from arrival time until the end of period 1 to allow for distribution of timetables and settling into new form rooms.

Year	Time	Location	Head of Year
Year 7	0800 – 0815	Main Entrance	Ms Money rmoney@stdunstans.org.uk
Year 8	0800 – 0815	Bridge Entrance	Ms Rich r-rich@stdunstans.org.uk
Year 9	0800 – 0815	West Entrance	Miss Hughes hhughes@stdunstans.org.uk
Year 10	0800 – 0815	Bridge Entrance	Ms Winder cwinder@stdunstans.org.uk
Year 11	0800 – 0815	West Entrance	Ms Karmock-Golds akarmockgolds@stdunstans.org.uk
Year 12	0800 – 0815	STEM Entrance	Ms Bocarro ebocarro@stdunstans.org.uk
Year 13	0800 – 0815	STEM Entrance	Mr Scambler tscambler@stdunstans.org.uk

Timetable

The timetable returns to normal timings so there will be no delayed departure/arrival times. Students should be sitting in form rooms to be registered at 0820 prompt so we advise an 0815 arrival if they need to go to their locker first. Please note there is no supervision or student access to the site before 0745 and students arriving early (between 0745 and 0800) will be asked to wait in the refectory. Finish time if no after school activities are planned is 1600 for all students.

Catering and equipment

Our catering team are very excited to be able to return to normal service from September. Students have already been surveyed on their preferred lunch choices and they will now have access to a variety of hot and cold meal options with desserts, fresh bread, a salad bar and fruit selections. Breakfast from 0745 and a break time snack will be available to purchase using cash if desired. Please ensure students only bring small amounts of cash each day. Students will need their own water bottle as our new water fountains are designed for filling bottles; we do not want students putting their mouths on water taps.

Please check the stationery list in the attached Senior School handbook and ensure students have all items listed. We will be issuing lockers in the first week of term. Our new-style lockers (ordered just before we had to cease use due to Covid!) are capacious and should fit a standard school bag and sports bag.

Health and safety and new face coverings guidance

As per government guidance, school ‘bubbles’ are no longer in operation. We do still expect students to be sensible and cautious in their interactions: they should still be avoiding any direct physical contact with one another and ensuring they wash their hands thoroughly and regularly in the toilets or the external handwashing stations. Students may use Senior School toilet facilities in both the old and new buildings but should not use any marked for Junior School only (and vice versa). Students may bring their own sanitiser although there are also sanitiser and handwashing stations around the site. Cleaning materials for desks are also located in every classroom.

We will be following the government guidance on face coverings for students in secondary schools. As such, adults and students are no longer **required** to wear face coverings on school premises. Nonetheless, we recognise that many will still wish to wear a face covering by choice all or some of the time and we respect the wishes of students who make this choice. We would ask that all students do bring a clean face covering to school each day in case they find themselves in a situation where they or another person would feel more comfortable wearing a face covering. We would expect students and adults to respect the reasonable wishes of others in this regard.

Uniform

Full details on the uniform, which has changed this year, are included in the separate uniform letters, however, please be reminded that we return to full normal uniform this September which means correct uniform must be worn all day, every day. Classrooms will still be ventilated so warm coats should be brought to school in the winter. The changing rooms are back in use and will be monitored appropriately by PE staff to ensure students change quickly for sport and then back into uniform afterwards. We thank you for your support with this return to normal expectations and hope it will result in a nicer environment for all with students not wearing used sports kit all day! The College Shop, based in the atrium of the new STEM/Junior School/Sixth Form building, has secondhand items for sale if needed. There is a one-year rollover period where items from either the old or new uniforms may be worn.

Homework

We will be returning to normal homework expectations, as outlined in the Senior School handbook. Students are asked to write details of homework set in their planners, as well as teachers putting instructions on Firefly, where supporting documentation can be found. If your child is finding it difficult to meet the homework expectations, please do not hesitate to contact your child's form tutor. Learning to study outside of lessons is an important step towards the independent study required for sixth form and university but we are always happy to support with organisation and study skills, both universally and on an individual basis as required.

Forder

You will shortly be receiving a letter regarding Forder sign up which will occur in the first week of term as usual. We are looking forward to a busy schedule for the new academic year and therefore ask parents to please take note of the number/type of activities your child should sign up to each term and encourage them to do so. If the club they are interested in is not there, they should come and speak to us as we can easily set up new ones if there are enough like-minded students!

Hybrid Teaching and Learning – Self-Isolating Students

If your child is unable to attend school as they have COVID or COVID symptoms, *but feels well*, after following the instructions above to inform us of this, they should log onto their Microsoft Teams account and follow their timetable from home as usual. Our teachers will continue to offer hybrid teaching and learning for COVID-related absence and include self-isolating students in classroom learning and activities. Students should have their cameras and microphones on as much as possible to aid this interaction with the class on-site.

Parents' Evenings

We hope to be able to invite parents onsite for many more events this year however will continue to run Parents' Evenings virtually this year on Teams due to the positive reception this move has had. If you have any feedback prior to or following your child's Parents' Evening, please do pass this on to your child's Head of Year so we can continue to improve our format. Extraordinary pastoral or academic one-to-one meetings may be offered on Teams or onsite depending on parent preference.

We are all looking forward to a new academic year that we sincerely hope will be less turbulent for all and we hope your children are equally relieved to be returning to more of a sense of normality.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's form tutor, who remains the primary point of contact for academic and pastoral matters.

Yours sincerely



Jade McLellan
Deputy Head Pastoral