



**"it is not enough for children to be loved,  
they must know that they are loved"**

**#Believe And Achieve**

Friday 18 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

You will probably have seen or read the news stories in the past 24 hours about schools and colleges being asked to implement a phased start to the spring term and being invited to set up a mass Covid testing programme for students and staff. I am writing to you today to explain how St John Bosco College intends to respond to these extremely last-minute government requests.

We will follow the government guidance on how to phase the start of term, which is intended to ensure effective education can continue but also reduce the spread of the virus as students and staff return after Christmas. This means that the information that I sent to you yesterday about the start of term has been amended as follows:

As previously advised, Monday 4 January is a Staff INSET day. Students will not attend on this day.

On Tuesday 5 January only the following students should come into school:

- Students in year 11 and year 13
- Vulnerable children and children of critical workers. If you think that your child is in one of these categories and you want to send them in - please contact the school to confirm this. You can do this by phone when the school office reopens on 4 January or by email [schoolclosure@sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk](mailto:schoolclosure@sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk). Please don't send your child in on the Tuesday without doing this as we need to know in advance which of our vulnerable/key worker children are coming in

There are also a small number of year 12 students sitting examinations in the first week back and they will be contacted by the Head of Sixth Form to let them know when they should attend for intervention sessions. Students sitting public exams on Friday 8 January are expected to attend these as normal.

During this first week of term, all other students should stay at home. This means all children in years 7-10 and some children in year 12. We will be providing remote education for those pupils, as we have done previously, through Microsoft Teams.

We will write to you in the first week back after the holidays to confirm arrangements for the following week, beginning 11 January.





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## Mass testing programme

We are positive about the potential for the mass testing of pupils and staff in schools, as a way of reducing the spread of the virus and enabling fewer pupils and staff to have to self-isolate. You can read more about how the government expects this programme to work [here](#).

Setting up this programme in schools is an incredibly complex operation. We have been sent some information about how it should work already, but more detailed guidance is expected to be produced by the government over the Christmas holiday period.

We will not, therefore, be in position to have this programme up and running as soon as the spring term starts. At the start of term, we will review what the expectations are, what support is available from the government or other agencies, and what we can realistically deliver.

We will let you know more about our plans as soon as we can in January. In the meantime, from the start of next term, we will continue to implement the safety measures we have been using in the autumn term.

Please accept our apologies for having to send this letter after term has already ended. We are having to respond to a vast quantity of extremely last minute and complex government guidance.

Thank you for your patience, and, once again – have a happy, peaceful and relaxing Christmas.

Yours faithfully

Mr P. Dunne  
Headteacher

