



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

#Believe And Achieve

Thursday 25 February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

On Monday of this week the Prime Minister announced that all children will be returning to secondary school in the week beginning Monday 8 March 2021 and that they will be offered Covid-19 tests before they return to the classroom. We are very much looking forward to welcoming your child back to St John Bosco College and I am writing to update you on the plans for the full reopening of the school.

From now until **Friday 5 March 2021** we will continue with our online curriculum. The children who are currently allowed on site will continue to attend as they have been doing. From **Monday 8 March 2021** we will begin our phased return of children to school to allow time for Covid-19 testing and to reintegrate the children back into the normal school routines.

Monday 8 March 2021 will be an INSET day (moved from the original date of Wednesday 3 March 2021). No lessons will take place that day. Instead, we will use this for Covid-19 testing of students and to provide staff with the opportunity to prepare properly for the return of classroom, rather than online, lessons.

Every child whose parents give consent will be invited into school for a test, by appointment, on Monday 8 March 2021. We strongly encourage all parents to give consent and thereby support the keeping of everyone in our community safe. If you would like to know more about how we test for Covid-19, please watch this [short video on our YouTube channel](#).

Please click [this link](#) to request an appointment for your child to be tested. We would like you to complete this by noon on Monday 1 March 2021. Once you have done this, we will contact you to give your child an appointment time and send you the full consent form. If for any reason you cannot use the link above and want to book an appointment, please telephone the school and let us know. Please note that if your child is currently attending school and you have already given consent, they will be offered a test on Friday 5 March 2021 and will not need to come to school on Monday 8 March 2021 for this.

Any child with Covid-19 symptoms should not come into school as per previous advice. If anyone in your household tests positive with Covid-19 all members of the household, including children, need to isolate for 10 days; please inform the school if this arises in your home.

On **Tuesday 9 March 2021** children in each year group bubble should come into school at the times specified below for a reintegration assembly, a full safety briefing, a copy of their new, updated timetable, and a chance to check in with their form tutors. Children will be in school for approximately one hour on this day. Year groups should attend as follows:

Year group	Should arrive at school by:	Children will leave school at
7	8.40 am	9.40 am
8	9.40 am	10.40 am
9	10.40 am	11.40 am
10	12.00 pm	1.00 pm
11	1.00 pm	2.00 pm
12-13	2.00 pm	3.00 pm





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On **Wednesday 10 March 2021** children in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 will attend school as normal to follow their normal school timetabled lessons. Children in Years 7, 8, 9 will remain at home and will be provided with appropriate age-related work to carry out at home.

On **Thursday 11 March 2021** all children will attend school, as normal to follow their timetabled school lessons. Please note that, as I shared when I wrote to you in December 2020, in order to increase the amount of curriculum time that we provide for each year group, once students return to school the normal school times will increase. We will continue to operate a staggered start and finish while Covid-19 restrictions remain in place (see below):

Day	Start	End
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday	8.40 Year 7 – 8.20 arrival Year 8 – 8.30 arrival Year 9 – 8.40 arrival Year 10 – 8.40 arrival Year 11 – 8.30 arrival	2.30 Year 7 – 2.20 finish Year 8 – 2.30 finish Year 9 – 2.20 finish Year 10 – 2.30 finish Year 11 – 2.40 finish
Tuesday and Friday	8.40 Year 7 – 8.20 arrival Year 8 – 8.30 arrival Year 9 – 8.40 arrival Year 10 – 8.40 arrival Year 11 – 8.30 arrival	1.40 Year 7 – 1.30 finish Year 8 – 1.40 finish Year 9 – 1.30 finish Year 10 – 1.40 finish Year 11 – 1.50 finish

In terms of reducing the risk of Covid-19, please ensure that your child has a clean, plain face mask to wear to school each day. We will be requiring all students to wear them on site throughout the day unless we have evidence of medical exemption for them, in line with the latest Government guidance.

Please also pack your child’s school bag with them to ensure that only necessary stationary equipment is brought into school and that the number of items that they are carrying is kept to a minimum. Please note that we will be issuing all students with new exercise books so old ones should be kept at home for revision and not brought back into school. There is hand sanitizer available in every classroom and at every school entrance, but we also encourage students to bring small bottles for personal use if they wish to use this throughout the day in addition to the hand washing/sanitizing provision in school.

The canteen will be providing a full normal hot service when we return, and we will also be launching a Breakfast Club, about which we will send you information in the next few days. Please remember that we are a healthy eating school and children should not bring any unhealthy snacks or fizzy drinks into school as these will be confiscated. We would recommend that you provide your child with a bottle of water to have in lessons. These can be refilled at the water fountains.





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Over the coming days please help your child to get ready to return to school. For many of our students this will be a time of excitement in terms of seeing friends again and returning to some more 'normal' routines but for some students it may also be a time of increased anxiety and uncertainty. It is important that we work together, as families and school, to support our children as best as we can. Please make time to talk with your child about any concerns and questions they might have about returning and encourage them to message their tutors if they have any questions that you cannot answer. You are also welcome to contact your child's form tutor for advice.

It is important over the next week for your child to reestablish sleeping routines and be ready to return to school in the correct uniform and equipped for school. There is advice on the school web page in terms of mental health advice for students (and parents). If you feel that you or your child needs any additional support, please do not hesitate to contact your child's form tutor or Head of House either via email or on the school telephone number.

Despite the challenges we face, we are delighted that we can welcome all of our students back in person. It has been a tough year for everyone in different ways, but I am so proud of the way our school community has risen to the challenges throughout and I have no doubt that we will continue to do so over the coming months. Your contribution as parents has been crucial to this and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support, engagement and the multiple offers of help and kindness that you have shared with us over this time.

With very best wishes.

Mr P. Dunne
Headteacher

