



St Michael's Catholic College

Llewellyn Street, Bermondsey, London SE16 4UN

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www.stmichaelscollege.org.uk

Principal: Ms Felicity Corcoran

Vice Principal: Ms Charlotte Sayed

Vice Principal: Ms Kathleen Faherty

13th August 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

We look forward to welcoming all year groups back in September in a safe and organised way and details about the start of term are included below. As Ms Corcoran informed you in her end of term letter, we will need to stagger our return in the autumn in order to follow Department of Education statutory guidance about students being required to complete two onsite lateral flow covid tests at the start of the new academic year.

The first test must take place before students start any face to face teaching and the second test will take place during the school day, 3-5 days after the first test. Please see the table below for the first test date, the start dates and second test dates for your child. Given the large number of students who are to undertake tests it is not possible to change these dates.

Testing is important because as many as one in three people who contact Covid-19 show no symptoms so spread the virus unknowingly. All staff will continue to engage in twice weekly testing and we hope that all pupils will participate in the initial onsite testing and home testing thereafter. This allows the college to operate as safely as possible and supports the continuation of face-to-face education.

In order to gain your consent for your child to partake in onsite testing in September, we ask that you complete a Google form (link below) indicating your consent for your child to participate in this national testing.

You will be asked a series of questions about your child, e.g. name, D.O.B and whether your child has tested positive within the last 90 days, which is necessary to inform us if they are eligible for lateral flow testing in September. The form allows you to give consent and to withhold consent. Should you choose to withhold consent it would be helpful if you could indicate on the form why, since that will enable us to review our processes if need be. **Please complete the form by Sunday 22nd August at the latest.**

Please note that if your child is 16 or older they will need to complete the google form themselves by Sunday 22nd August as parents are not allowed to do this on their behalf.

<https://forms.gle/FJVvc6zf9aiRnM1aA>

Once students return to college after their first negative test the second test will take place during the school day. This will take place on a rota to minimise the time students in each year group are out of onsite lessons and anyone not being tested will be expected to undertake silent supervised private study when it is their class's turn to be tested as we do not have the staffing capacity to offer face to face teaching for these students in these circumstances.

Arrangements for the start of term September 2021

| Year group | Covid-19 Initial test date and time | Date of return to face to face learning | Start and finish times once face to face teaching resumes | Date of 2 nd Covid-19 test |
|------------|--|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| 12 | Thurs 2nd Sept 12.45pm 12A 1.05pm 12B 1.25pm 12C 1.45pm 12D | Friday 3 rd Sept | 8:40am -3:25pm Front gate – Llewellyn Street | Tues 7th Sept |
| 7 | Thurs 2nd Sept 2.15pm 7BC 2.35pm 7MA 2.55pm 7RU 3.15pm 7SA 3.35pm 7VI 3.55pm 7DA | Friday 3 rd Sept | 8:35am -3:20pm Sugar Lane Gate | Tues 7th Sept |

The college has been successfully conducting onsite lateral flow testing with staff and pupils since January 2021- they are completely pain free and non-invasive. It is important to point out that students are required to perform the swab test on themselves under the supervision of a trained test assistant who is a member of the college staff. Staff will not be carrying out tests on the students but are there to advise and assist if needed. Lateral flow testing has enabled us to minimise the risk of transmission by being able to promptly identify asymptomatic cases and work as safely as possible at this time.

Whilst undertaking a test is voluntary, the government are encouraging everyone to join in the asymptomatic testing programme to help break transmission links by identifying people that may be carrying the virus unknowingly. We hope that you will support the college and our community by working with us at this time to co-operate with the lateral flow testing programme, so that students and staff not only return to the college safely but remain safe and in full time face to face education which we know is in their best interests.

If you have any urgent questions about the lateral flow tests ahead of filling in the google form please email the college via contact@stmichaelscollege.org.uk and mark your email for the attention of Ms Nottage. Please note, you may not get a response until term begins.

Yours Sincerely,

Ms Nottage.

Assistant Principal Behaviour, Inclusion & Safeguarding.

