



# St Michael's Catholic College

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[www.stmichaelscollege.org.uk](http://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 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.

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.

As you are aware, 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 remind you 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.

The DfE guidance recommends that we use the consent forms that were completed by parents/students in the last academic year, this will make the registration process much smoother. If you previously gave consent for your child to take part in onsite lateral flow testing but now wish to withdraw your consent you must notify us via email prior to **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> August**. If we do not receive an email withdrawing consent your child will be tested when it is their year group's turn. Equally, if you previously did not consent to testing but would now like your child to be tested please email.

If you have changed your mind and are withdrawing consent or providing consent since the last time that you completed the Google form you must email [contact@stmichaelscollege.org.uk](mailto:contact@stmichaelscollege.org.uk) and mark the email for the attention of Ms Nottage.

Please note that if your child is 16 or older they will have to email themselves as they will have to consent/not consent for themselves.

### 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 <sup>nd</sup> Covid-19 test
<b>11</b>	<b>Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept</b> 10.10am 11BC 10.30am 11MA 10.50am 11RU 11.10am 11SA 11.30am 11VI 11.50am 11DA	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sept	<b>8:40am- 4:30pm</b> Sugar Lane Gate All Year 11 have compulsory study clubs to support with GCSE preparation	<b>Tues 7<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept</b> 9.15am 13A 9.35am 13B 9.55am 13C 10.15am 13D	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> Sept	<b>8:45am-3:25pm</b> Sugar Lane Gate	<b>Weds 8<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Sept</b> 8.30am 10BC 8.50am 10MA 9.10am 10RU 9.30am 10SA 9.50am 10VI 10.10am 10DA	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> Sept	<b>8:35am-3:20pm</b> Back Gate	<b>Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Sept</b> 10.30am 9BC 11.15am 9MA 11.35am 9RU 11.55am 9SA 12.15pm 9VI 12.35pm 9DA	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> Sept	<b>8:40am- 3:25pm</b> Back Gate	<b>Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Sept</b> 1.30pm 8BC 1.50pm 8BC 2.10pm 8BC 2.30pm 8BC 2.50pm 8BC 3.10pm 8BC	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> Sept	<b>8:40am- 3:25pm</b> Back Gate	<b>Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>

If you have any urgent questions about the lateral flow tests please email the college via [contact@stmichaelscollege.org.uk](mailto: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.

