



St Michael's Catholic College

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Principal: Ms Felicity Corcoran

Vice Principal: Ms Charlotte Sayed

Acting Vice-Principal: Ms Joanna Nottage

1st September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Covid 19 Update Autumn Term 2021

We look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 and 12 students, as well as students in all other year groups back to St Michael's Catholic College over the next few days. We hope they will approach the new academic year in a positive way with high aspirations for their achievement and progress.

As you are aware from previous correspondence we are required to stagger the start to the new term in order to supervise students carrying out Covid-19 lateral flow tests on the college site in line with Department of Education guidance. All parents have been informed of the dates and times students need to attend for testing and the subsequent start dates for face to face teaching, a reminder is at the end of this letter.

Parents should also be aware that guidance for schools in relation to Covid-19 has been updated again over the summer and in light of this guidance and following a thorough risk assessment of college procedures and buildings **the college will implement the following control measures in order to fulfil our health and safety obligations and duty of care to both students and staff:**

- All staff to take home LFD Covid-19 tests twice weekly from 31st August until the end of September.
- All students to be offered 2 onsite LFD Covid 19 tests at the start of term and then move to twice weekly home testing until the end of September. The first test will take place before face to face teaching starts, the second test will take place within the college day.
- Staff and students have the option to wear face coverings at any time. Depending on the local case rate the college may choose to mandate this if necessary. There may be some circumstances e.g. if they develop covid symptoms during the college day where a member of staff may ask a student wear a mask for a specific period of time unless of course they are exempt. Students should therefore carry a spare mask with them to college.
- Electronic seating plans for all students will be created by staff for all classes and strictly adhered to.
- Students will move around the college to lessons, but there will be allocated routes for each year group which students must stick to.
- There will be continued regular cleaning of high frequency areas of the college.
- Staff and students will continue to sanitise hands upon arrival, when entering and leaving classrooms and before and after lunch. Students/staff can use their own hand sanitiser if they would prefer.
- Ventilation will be monitored daily across both college buildings using inbuilt computer systems (BMS) this will include the monitoring of Co2 levels and temperatures.
- Students will have designated year group zones outside at break and lunch time and will not mix across year groups for the time being.



Covid Symptoms/positive results

- No student, nor staff member, should be in college if they have covid symptoms or a positive lateral flow test. If this is the case, they should follow NHS guidance on this which is to book a PCR test and isolate until the result is received. If symptoms remain then they should continue to isolate and get a second PCR. Negative PCRs only override positive Lateral Flows if the test is taken within 2 days of the lateral flow test.
- Staff and students in Year 13 aged 18+6 months or more and who are double vaccinated are now not required to isolate if they are identified as a contact of a positive case. They are advised to book a precautionary PCR test, wear a face covering in enclosed spaces and social distance for 10 days if they are identified as contacts of a positive covid case.
- Students aged below 18 years and 6 months old are also not required to isolate if they are identified as contacts of a positive case. They are asked to book a precautionary PCR test.
- Students aged 18+6 months or more who are not vaccinated or only single vaccinated are legally required to isolate for 10 days if identified as a contact of a positive covid case. If this means that any year 13 students are required to isolate it is expected that they will all meet remote learning expectations.
- The college is legally required to set work for any student isolating due to a positive Covid-19 result.
- NHS Track and Trace are responsible for the contact tracing of positive cases and the college will support them and the local public health team as needed e.g. if thresholds of case numbers are reached.

Contingency Plans

There is a bespoke 'outbreak management plan' for the autumn term which is available on the college website in the Covid-19 section. The plan has been created in line with statutory Department of Education guidance and contains details of 'control measures' likely to be invoked should there be a localised outbreak within the college or high case numbers locally or nationally e.g.

- a. The re-introduction of mandatory face masks
- b. The reintroduction of social distancing and set limits for communal spaces/offices
- c. The re-introduction of year zones/bubbles
- d. An increase in cleaning and deep cleaning
- e. The adoption of remote learning for whole year groups or for the whole college as necessary

Vaccinations

The Director of Public Health for Southwark Sangeeta Leahy has asked me to highlight to all parents, carers and students aged 16+ that

In south east London, young people aged 16 and 17 years can now get a vaccine in one of two ways:

- By attending a grab-a-jab walk-in clinic
- Through a direct invitation to book from a healthcare provider.
- Those within three months of their eighteenth birthday, or who are 18 already also have the option to book through the National Booking System by calling 119 or booking an appointment online www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination

More details can be found in the letter from the local authority which is being sent in conjunction with this one. We would encourage all students aged 16+ and their parents/carers to read this letter and act upon the NHS advice to get vaccinated.

I think it is also important to point out that the college has **not** received any information at the present time in relation to proposed vaccinations for students aged between 12-16 years old, despite the media speculation about this. Please be reassured that **if** the decision is taken by the government to offer covid vaccinations to any students of any age group on the college site, all parents and carers would be informed in advance that this is taking place and all protocols in relation to consent would be fully adhered to.

Thank you in advance for your ongoing support with regard to our Covid-19 health and safety expectations, which will be kept under constant review. I am sure you can appreciate that for the common good it is incumbent on all of us to follow the guidance to protect everyone in our community and hopefully minimise disruption to students' face to face teaching and learning during this academic year.

Yours faithfully



Ms F. Corcoran

Principal

Reminder- LFT testing dates and start of term dates.

Year group	Covid 19 Initial Test date and times sent via Edulink by Ms Nottage in the summer holidays in August	Date of return to face to face learning	Start and finish times once face to face teaching resumes Students should arrive on time and go straight to the designated entrance for their year group.
7	Thursday 2 nd Sept	Friday 3 rd Sept	8:35am-3:20pm Sugar Lane Gate
11	Thursday 2 nd Sept	Friday 3 rd Sept	8:40am- 4:30pm Sugar Lane Gate All Year 11 have compulsory study clubs to support with GCSE preparation
12	Thursday 2 nd Sept	Friday 3 rd Sept	8:40am -3:25pm Front gate – Llewellyn Street
13	Friday 3 rd Sept	Monday 6 th Sept	8:45am-3:25pm Sugar Lane Gate
10	Monday 6 th Sept	Tuesday 7 th Sept	8:35am-3:20pm Back Gate
9	Monday 6 th Sept	Tuesday 7 th Sept	8:40am- 3:25pm Back Gate
8	Monday 6 th Sept	Tuesday 7 th Sept	8:40am- 3:25pm Back Gate

