



# Parent Newsletter

St Mary Magdalene Secondary

Issue No 10 | December | Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December

Dear Parent/Carers,

I hope you are all keeping well and I hope all of our students have enjoyed their first few days of their break. I am writing to you today to update you with the latest information we have and our plans for the new year. As you will have seen on the news, we are faced with a constantly changing set of criteria to work within; if there are no further changes from the government regarding secondary age pupils returning to school, our plan is as below. Should the guidance change once again, I will be in contact.

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 8<sup>th</sup>** – Year 11 students will return to school and students in years 7-10 will be expected to complete online learning from home.

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 8<sup>th</sup>** – Any children of key workers or those who have been invited in will attend school as normal and be a part of the school hub.

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January** – All students will return to school.

You will have also heard that the government will be making rapid-result coronavirus (COVID-19) tests available to school and colleges in the new year. This is to identify asymptomatic cases – which make up a third of all cases – limiting the spread of the virus. The lateral flow tests that will be provided to schools and colleges produce a result in 30 minutes and do not require a laboratory to process. Anyone who is showing symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) who has a negative result from a rapid test will still be required to self-isolate until the result from a lab-based polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test is known.

We will continue to follow our COVID risk assessment, along with the new testing, I am hopeful this will ensure pupils are given the best chance of face to face education. Testing expectations are:

- for the school workforce to conduct weekly testing - this will help identify those who are carrying the virus without displaying symptoms, reducing the risk of transmission
- for students and pupils as well as the school workforce to conduct daily testing in those cases where they are identified as close contacts of school colleagues or students that have tested positive - this ensures that they do not need to isolate and are able to continue to benefit from high quality, face-to-face education
  - For every group, testing is voluntary, but those who are eligible for tests are strongly encouraged to participate to reduce the risk of transmission within schools and colleges.
- In line with routine infection control practice, close contacts who decide not to be tested daily will need to self-isolate in line with the government's [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#).

I enclose an instructional leaflet with some more information as well as a consent and registration form. If you are happy for your child to be tested, please fill in the form attached and the enclosed consent statement (one per student) and send it back to [romard@koinoniafederation.com](mailto:romard@koinoniafederation.com) or provide the signed forms to your child to hand in to their family tutor.

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat.

I now hope to leave you all to enjoy your Christmas. But if anything changes, I will of course be in touch.

With all best wishes.

Mr R Hussain  
**Principal**