



Parent Newsletter

St Mary Magdalene Secondary

Issue No 13 | February | Friday 26th February 2021

Dear Parent/Carers,

I hope you are all keeping well. A lot of information has been shared with us this week on a national level and I write to you to share the most relevant information from our school perspective as well as further updates.

Schools full opening from Monday 8th March and testing

The Prime Minister announced that the Government has set out its plan for the return of all pupils to schools as part of the roadmap for leaving lockdown. All secondary school students will take coronavirus (COVID-19) tests as they return to the classroom from Monday 8 March. Schools have discretion on how to phase the return of their students over the week beginning 8 March to allow them to be tested on return. After an initial programme of three tests in school, students will be provided with two rapid tests to use each week at home. The senior leadership of the school have decided to take the first 2 days of the week beginning 8th March for testing purposes only, and after having taken a lateral test, students will return home. We aim to test all of our students on Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th to aim for a full return to face to face learning for all of our students on Wednesday 10th March. I will send out a timetable next week for when your child is expected to attend school on either Monday or Tuesday; this time will also be used to check student uniform and face coverings for the full return to school.

Face covering

Staff and students in secondary schools are advised to wear face coverings in all areas, including classrooms, where social distancing cannot be maintained as a temporary extra measure. We require all of our students to wear masks – unless exempt – at all times throughout the school day. This will be checked for all students upon entry to the school and students without masks may be asked to go home to collect them. Failure to wear a face covering during the day will result in a consequence for students. I would like to remind all within our school community that face covering keeps others around us safe and as such is a key part of our school risk assessment. To help us ensure students are not being penalised when they are exempt, please email the school or call the office as soon as possible, along with proof, and your child will be added to the exempt list.

Examinations

On Thursday, the Education Secretary made an announcement about Year 11 and Year 13 examinations and assessments. Whilst some further details from the exam boards are yet to be confirmed, we now know that students will receive grades awarded and determined by teachers, with pupils only assessed on what they have been taught. Schools will continue to carry out assessments of students but these will not be formal GCSEs. No algorithms will be used. Teachers will submit grades to exam boards by Friday 18 June. This allows as much teaching time as possible – and time for tests and assessments – before teachers send off grades.

Students should therefore be aware that the work they have been doing, and the work they will do from now on, will be used to assess them, and there will be assessments in school over the coming months to ensure grades are awarded accurately. Your child's hard work over the coming months will result in grades of which they can be proud. If your child has not completed all of their recent remote learning, I encourage you to ensure they do so before they return to school so they are in the strongest possible position for their teachers to assess them.

Results days for GCSE, A level and some vocational qualifications will take place in the week beginning 9 August – moved forward from the week beginning 23 August.

Laptop returns

If you have borrowed a device from school, these MUST be returned to the school by Friday 12th March. We request you drop these to the front office and we will ensure a record is kept of all returns.

Greenwich Youth Engagement

This is an exciting opportunity for our young people to have their voices heard has arisen. Please see the Greenwich Youth IAG poster attached for more details.

Metropolitan Police Safer Schools Team

It is important that your child is not breaching current government COVID restrictions before and after school. Please see letter attached from PC Mark.

Safer internet

As I am sure you will agree our young people are very tech savvy. The below links provide a gallery of resources aimed at parents/carers to help you discuss online safety with your child, understand the wider world of the Internet, gaming and gambling.

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2021/i-am-parent-or-carer>

<https://parents.vgam.org/>

PE lessons and PE Kit – Message from Mr Lawrence and Mr Golding

Pupils are permitted to wear their PE uniform to school on the days that they have practical PE lessons. They must wear their full SMM PE uniform and must also wear their blazer. Pupils who arrive in incorrect PE uniform and/or do not have their blazer will be sent home to change into the correct uniform. The full SMM PE uniform is outlined below:

- SMM short-sleeved polo shirt or long-sleeve 'rugby' top.
- Black shorts, tracksuit bottoms or sports leggings.
- Black or white sports socks.
- Suitable trainers (vans/converses are not suitable for PE). Football Boots or Astroturf Trainers must be worn for Football, Rugby and other lessons on the 4G pitch.

Pupils can bring a lightweight waterproof jacket (suitable for sport) on the days where it is raining and are not allowed to wear their 'winter coats' during a lesson.

Pupils are encouraged to wear a black base layer under their PE kit to keep warm.

Pupils are not permitted to wear black leggings that are not sports leggings.

Reminders to pupils:

Pupils should not wear tracksuit tops/hoodies to school, this is not part of the PE uniform and they will be asked to remove them and place them in their bag when they arrive to school.

Grey/Navy/Camo tracksuit bottoms are not permitted to wear for PE. Pupils will be asked to return home and change if they arrive to school in these.

Sincerely

Mr R Hussain
Principal