



Parent Newsletter

St Mary Magdalene Secondary

Issue No 10 | Wednesday 23rd

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back to all our students and staff. I hope you all enjoyed a relaxing half term break without the storms having disrupted your plans.

To start with, I would like to say huge well done to all the students who performed in Hamilton before half term. All staff and students were really impressed with the standard of the performance. I know that Mr McInnis will be providing a recorded copy for parents upon request. A huge thank you to Mr McInnis and his team.

On Monday, the Prime Minister set out the next phase of the government's COVID-19 response 'living with Covid'.

The first change to share is that the requirement for students and staff to undertake twice-weekly asymptomatic testing has been removed in most educational settings. The government have stated that education testing delivery channels will remain open so that staff and students of secondary age and above can access tests if needed to respond to local public health advice, in particular in relation to outbreaks. Staff and students are also able to access test kits from their local pharmacy or online.

From Thursday 24th February, the government will remove the legal requirement to self-isolate after returning a positive test. However, the advice is still to self-isolate for at least 5 days in the event of a positive test. From our school perspective, this is the expectation of all students, that if a student tests positive for COVID-19, parents will immediately inform the school and a 5 day period of self-isolation would begin. Depending on students returning a negative result on day 6 and on the type of symptoms, the school office will then discuss a return date with parents.

In addition, the government will:

- No longer ask fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 to test daily for 7 days, and remove the legal requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate.
- End routine contact tracing. Contacts will no longer be required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests. Staff, children and young people should attend their education settings as usual. This includes staff who have been in close contact within their household, unless they are able to work from home.

Covid Vaccine

Date added for 2nd dose (or 1st for students who need)- Monday 28th February. If you would like your child to have the vaccine in school, a letter has been sent home with students, please complete the form and return it to reception as soon as possible.

Mock Exams

Please read the letters sent to you from Mr Greenwood (Vice Principal) about the [year 11](#) and [year 12](#) mock exams prior to the half term holiday, along with the confirmed GCSE exam timetable for this summer.

Prayer from the Chaplain

O God,
you know us to be set
in the midst of so many and great dangers,
that by reason of the frailty of our nature
we cannot always stand upright:
grant to us such strength and protection
as may support us in all dangers
and carry us through all temptations;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

As you may have felt blown around and in a storm - May you feel the strength of God's protection in these coming days - both to start the term well but also during the beginning of Lent (starts next Wednesday).
Amen.

Attendance

Please read the attendance and punctuality letters sent from Mr Watson (Assistant Principal). As a school we are having a real drive on further improving our attendance and punctuality. The DfE have further reiterated:

School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age. It continues to be a priority to ensure that as many children as possible are regularly attending school.

Safer internet

Please see some resources parents can use to keep their child safe online attached.

Year 10 work experience

The year 10's will be taking part in Work Experience on the last week of the summer term, before we break up for school. The own find forms can be found on the website for the students to download, however we will have printed copies here nearer the time. We also have two placements with the MET Police lined up, and will be offered to those on a 1st come 1st served basis, if interested please speak to Miss Machin or Miss Botha.

Yours sincerely,

Mr R. Hussain
Principal