



5th March 2021

CW/RT/1387

Dear Parents and Carers

Return to School

You will have received a number of letters from our Multi-academy Trust about the return to school, the Lateral Testing and the plans for GCSEs this year.

This letter outlines the plans for pupils to return next week. All pupils will begin returning to Saint Martin's from Wednesday 10th March. In order to speed up the return, we moved all the Lateral Flow Testing to this weekend. I am very grateful to all the staff and other volunteers who are giving up their weekend to make this possible.

The Return

Year 10 and 11 will firstly return to school on Wednesday, followed by Year 8 and Year 9 on Thursday and Year 7 on Friday. Please see below our plan for next week:

Day	Information
Monday	Staff Training All key worker pupils to work at home if possible (parents/carers need to contact the school if child care is still needed).
Tuesday	Normal Key Worker day at school. All other pupils will be working at home.
Wednesday	School Reopens <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Beaver Bus service will begin.• The Pre-Christmas Timetable to resume.• Year 10 and 11 in school, normal lessons return• Year 7, 8 & 9 Key worker pupils in uniform will also be in school.
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 in school.• Y7 key worker pupils in uniform will also be in school.
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All years in school following the normal timetable.

Our aim, given the upheaval of the last few months, is to have a gentle 'landing' for the few weeks before Easter. Teachers will just recap on work already done and work out where pupils are in terms of their progress, or lack of. Never-the-less, we will expect all pupils to return with their usual Saint Martin's standards: charm, manners, kindness, hard work, politeness and immaculate behaviour. We expect these standards to be maintained at all times.



Covid Precautions

Over this whole period, we have tried to keep a semblance of normality for our pupils, so we try to keep school life as normal as possible. Very few pupils have tested positive for the virus and where they have, the symptoms have been very mild or non-existent. With most elderly or vulnerable people now vaccinated, along with many more besides, and infections dramatically falling, things should be far safer now than ever.

We will, nevertheless, maintain all the precautions from before Christmas: Year groups remaining in their 'Bubbles', social distancing and so on. You will also know that the government now recommend that pupils wear masks in lessons, they have also said that this cannot be enforced so we will leave this decision to parental discretion.

Uniform

Pupils also need to be wearing their full school uniform. We realise buying uniform is not as straightforward as it usually would be, however both Hole in the Wall and Swifts allow for online purchases, and shoes can also obviously be bought online or in supermarkets. As always, we will expect pupils to wear the correct uniform with pride and look smart at all times. For more information www.saint-martins.net/uniform

Finally, I cannot emphasise how delighted I am that our pupils are returning to school. I know many of our pupils have struggled over this period and the lack of normal human contact has had a very real impact on their mental health. Can I thank you all for your support in helping your child with online learning, this has certainly not been an easy time for parents and carers. Can I also thank my staff who have been working really hard over this lockdown, teaching online is far more stressful than normal face to face teaching. We have also had staff in school every day working with, on occasions, over 100 key worker and vulnerable pupils every day.

If you have any concerns or questions please feel free to contact us.

Yours faithfully

Mr C Wright
Principal