



# St. George's School

## A Church of England Academy

'Our vision is to be outstanding through the provision of consistent academic excellence within a caring, Christian community'  
Headteacher: Mr G Warnock

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3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

There is currently a lot of speculation regarding schools in the media; however the information regarding the year group return remains unchanged from the information in the last email which is;

### The Staggered Return to School

Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January & Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	'Logistics Days' – school closed to all pupils
From 6 <sup>th</sup> January	School open to children of critical workers and vulnerable pupils
From 11 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 11 return to school at normal time
From 18 <sup>th</sup> January	All other pupils return to school

### Year 10 and 11 exams

The vocational exams are going ahead and we will update those sitting exams with our plans on Monday.

### Mass Testing

We are working very hard already to introduce routine mass COVID testing for staff and pupils. This has been designed to protect pupils, staff and families. A few points about these tests are included below. Please note we are in the early stages of getting this testing programme together. It is complex and is completely new to us all, so some of the details may change, or our start date for testing may be delayed.

I have included some key points and a link to a consent form. This must be completed for ALL pupils to indicate whether consent has been granted or not. <https://forms.gle/qjh2K5n1unLSivkh6>

More information on the timing of the tests will follow next week when we receive further training from the Government.

- I would encourage everyone to take part in the testing programme as this will help keep everyone safer, but it is not compulsory. No pupil under 16 will be allowed to take part in the testing programme without advance informed consent from a parent/carer. Pupils who are aged over 16 can give informed consent to testing for themselves.
- The tests, which will be used in school, are Lateral Flow Devices (LFD) tests. These will provide a result within 30 minutes and do not have to be sent off to a lab to be processed.
- These tests do NOT replace the current measures which we have in place such as face coverings, hand hygiene and where possible social distancing.

- The LFD tests are carried out using a throat and nose swab. The tests are self-administered and they will be carried out by the pupils themselves for all, or almost all pupils. The tests take about 5 minutes from start to finish.
- We aim to test all pupils who can get to the Academy for a test a few days before they return to lessons. We will send out appointment times for these tests. Under current guidance, all pupils will be allowed to return to the school on the 18<sup>th</sup> January even if they have not been tested, but it is our hope that most will.
- All pupils for whom consent has been obtained, will be tested once each week for as long as the programme carries on.
- Pupils who are 'close contacts' currently have to stay at home and self-isolate, and miss education. With this programme they will now be able to be tested each day for 7 days instead and will not have to miss their education. Where consent for testing has not been given, close contacts will still have to self-isolate at home as an alternative to daily testing.
- Pupils who test positive after an LFD will be isolated in our school holding room and will need to be collected from the school immediately. Following a positive LFD test you will be required to have your child tested using a PCR testing kit (one of the 'normal' COVID testing kits) this can be arranged by using the usual government website. If the PCR test returns a negative result this will overrule the less accurate LFD test and your child can return to school. If the PCR test returns a positive result you will be required to self-isolate.
- Most of the testing will be carried out by existing school staff. However, if any Parents / Carers have time to volunteer and wish to do so on a regular rota, especially if you have relevant experience, please could you let us know by emailing [stgenquiries@cidari.co.uk](mailto:stgenquiries@cidari.co.uk)

Finally, thank you for your continued support and understanding. We do not know what challenges lie ahead, but I know that by working together we will get through this.

If you have any questions about any of the above then please email [stgenquiries@cidari.co.uk](mailto:stgenquiries@cidari.co.uk) and we will endeavour to respond as best we can.

Yours sincerely

*G Warnock*

Mr G Warnock  
Headteacher