



**St Antony's
Roman Catholic School**

ASPIRE + BELIEVE + ACHIEVE

25th February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your families well. Following the update from the Prime Minister on Monday, the stated intention is for all pupils to return to school from 8th March. For secondary schools there is a requirement to test all pupils before the full return to school during that week. We feel it is important to keep parents informed on this additional element to the phased return. As you may well be aware, up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. Given this fact, the government has asked schools to test all students before they return to the classroom.

These COVID-19 tests, known as 'lateral flow tests' are designed to pick up any positive cases where individuals are not showing any coronavirus symptoms. We have been using these tests since the start of January; testing staff and the students that we have had onsite. Some other Trafford and Manchester schools using these tests have identified a number of asymptomatic cases that may have otherwise gone undetected for some time. As a result, they were able to take quick action and stop additional spread immediately, thereby keeping their school and wider community safe. Whilst this test is voluntary, we would strongly encourage all students to take advantage of this additional measure to help reduce transmission.

The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy to use (please see [here](#) for further information). Students will take a swab from the throat and the nose, which is then tested. The whole process, from registration to testing to issuing results, is undertaken by our own staff who have received special training. They will ensure students feel relaxed and comfortable, answering any questions that may be asked. All results will be shared directly with parents/carers. Positive cases will be identified within 30 minutes of testing and immediate action taken.

We encourage all students to take part in this testing programme. It will help us to identify any positive cases quickly and will hopefully assist in reducing the number of students who have to be sent home to isolate due to contact with positive cases. As always, we are committed to keeping as many students and staff in our school as safe and secure as possible.

On the day that students are travelling to school at different times for their first test, there will be no 'live' lessons. Further details will be provided regarding this next week.

The plan for testing and return to school for each cohort is outlined overleaf. On the day of testing students should enter school through the main entrance. They will have their test and come straight home. Parents/carers will be informed of the result by text message.

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Headteacher: Mrs F Wright



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<p>In School group These students will have completed their 3 tests by the end of next week and fall outside of the arrangements for their year group.</p> <p>Year 7 First test on Monday 8th March (see timetable below) Return to school on Tuesday 9th March</p> <p>Year 8 First test on Wednesday 10th March (see timetable below) Return to school on Thursday 11th March</p>	<p>Year 9 First test on Tuesday 9th (see timetable below) Return to school on Wednesday 10th March</p> <p>Year 10 First test on Thursday 4th March (see timetable below) Return to school on Monday 8th March</p> <p>Year 11 First test on Wednesday 3rd (see timetable below) Return to school on Monday 8th March</p>
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All students will have had the opportunity for three tests by Friday 19th March. At this point will be able to distribute home testing kits to those students who have had **three** tests within school.

Testing cannot take place without a signed consent form. These were posted home over half term and are also available on the school [website](http://www.st-antony.com). Please return ASAP to school reception or email to c.jones@st-antony.com.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With kind regards,

Fiona Wright – Headteacher

1 st Test	Yr7 – 8 th March	Yr8 – 10 th March	Yr9 – 9 th March	Yr10 – 4 th March	Yr11 – 3 rd March
9am	7A	8A			
10am	7B	8B	9A	10A	11A
11:30am	7C	8C	9B	10B	11B
1pm	7M	8M	9C	10C	11C
2pm	7W	8W	9W	10W	