



**St Antony's
Roman Catholic School**

ASPIRE + BELIEVE + ACHIEVE

4th March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

First of all, can I say how excited we all are to have all the students back next week. We'll have a full school again once Year 8s return on Thursday and we are really looking forward to seeing everyone's wonderful faces. Secondly, can I thank you all - parents and students alike - for your efforts with home-schooling. I know it's been tough but you all have worked so hard and I'm sure we'll work well together again to get our students settled, happy and learning as soon as possible from next week.

Year 10 and 11 have had their initial COVID tests this week and will return to school on Monday. Year 7 will be tested for the first time on Monday and return on Tuesday. Year 9 will be tested for the first time on Tuesday and return on Wednesday. Year 8 will be tested for the first time on Wednesday and return on Thursday. 2nd and 3rd tests will take place over the next two weeks. There is still time for parents/carers to consent if you haven't done so already. Please return a completed [form](#) to school ASAP and the Testing Team will schedule your child into the testing programme.

You'll find attached an overview of how things are going to work from next week. Students will find that it is almost identical to how things worked prior to Christmas but please read it carefully as there are a few changes. Please do not arrive early to school. You will not be allowed to enter school before the time specified. Full uniform is required, with no hoodies or trainers and no jewellery or makeup. Please ensure false nails and eyelashes are removed over the weekend if necessary. It is Red Week next week and student timetables can be found on SMHW if you need a reminder. Year 7s are to come in their PE kit on the days they have PE for the first two weeks, after which we will reassess. All other year groups are to bring their kits with them. School buses will resume as normal. Remember to top up canteen accounts!

A limited breakfast and homework club from Monday 15th March will resume for those for whom this provision is essential. Please email g.worthe@st-antonys.com by 12pm on Wednesday 10th March if you would like your child to be considered for this.

We have been delighted with how engaged the vast majority of students have been with their remote learning and want to keep this positive momentum going. To this end KS3 students will be receiving homework in the following subjects every week, as from 15th March – 2 English (Bedrock), 2 Maths, 2 Science, and one each for RE, French, Humanities, Computing and Music. These will be posted on SMHW. As parents/carers, please continue your support by ensuring your child completes these. Study Hall provision will also start for KS4 students immediately on their return. Year 10 and 11 students are welcome to use CR2 and CR3 respectively until 4pm every night to

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support their learning. It is also vital that Year 11 bring in any work that they have at home connected with their GCSE courses e.g. unit test papers, November Mocks, any relevant lockdown work etc. These may form part of the evidence base for teacher assessments.

You will be aware that there has been some debate nationally about the use of face coverings in secondary school. Our students were incredibly good prior to Christmas about wearing masks around school. For all times of movement, such as lesson changeover or canteen queuing, the need to wear a mask remains in place. The use of face coverings in classrooms (where social distancing can't be maintained) is now also strongly encouraged but there will not be a sanction for students who choose not to wear one. Please remember to come to school with a face mask, unless exempt. If exempt please remember your lanyard.

Before the most recent school closure, we had only a few positive cases of COVID within the school community and this was due, in the most part, to the safe and considerate behaviour of students and their families outside of school, as well as staff, meaning that the virus was not brought onto the school site. As restrictions begin to lift slowly, please continue to keep yourselves and your families safe by minimising social mixing, especially inside. It would be wonderful to move forward with all students and staff in attendance every day with no need for anyone to self isolate. The school's COVID risk assessments are currently being reviewed and will be updated on the school website ready for Monday. All rooms are being deep cleaned ready for the students' return and we will be continuing with an enhanced cleaning programme.

Thank you for your continued support in these challenging times. Please remember to follow both the school's and public health guidance to keep everyone learning safely.

With kind regards,

Mrs Fiona Wright - Headteacher