



**St Antony's
Roman Catholic School**

ASPIRE + BELIEVE + ACHIEVE

14th January 2022

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and yours well and that you all enjoyed a good Christmas break. It's been fantastic to be back at school, with all year groups with us since Monday. The children, as ever, continue to impress us with their positive attitudes, both to their work and to the COVID safety requirements in place. Testing and mask wearing has been shown to reduce transmission, therefore allowing education to continue for the students. It also means we can keep staff absence to a minimum which in turn means we have little demand for supply staff, benefiting the students with the stability of their education. We do have cases of COVID within the St Antony's community, with both students and staff, and I strongly encourage all students to test twice weekly and wear masks as directed. As you are very well aware, guidance about the virus changes almost daily. Please find overleaf the latest information from the DfE, correct as of today.

Numbers of students suffering from stress and anxiety has understandably increased since the start of the pandemic. Trafford Libraries and Trafford CAMHS are delivering an Understanding Anxiety Teams workshop aimed at young people on Monday 17th January, 4pm - 5.30pm. The booking link for this session and more information is given below:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/understanding-anxiety-a-workshop-with-camhs-tickets-238325968387>

The session will take around an hour with time at the end for questions and will cover 3 main areas:

- 1. Learning about anxiety – the reason we do this is so that we can better understand what we are going through as well as better communicate our needs*
- 2. Self-help strategies – as well as highlighting services in the area a lot of anxiety work can be done without a professional, either by yourself or with the support of friends or family, we will explore what you can do instead of, whilst waiting for or alongside other mental health services.*
- 3. Questions.*

There is the opportunity for students to take part in a cross-country race being run by Trafford Athletics Club on Saturday 22nd January at Longford Park. The route is approx. 2.5km. Interested pupils to see Mr Brownbill. We are also pleased to announce the return of the creative youth groups organised by Gorse Hill Studios. If anyone is interested, please see Mrs Ingham and she will give more information. Schedule can be found [here](#).

Finally, some advance notices. Year 11 Parents' Evening will take place on 10th February. Further guidance from the DfE with regards to the GCSEs is due by 7th February so we will be able to share this with you then. Their next set of Mocks will start on 3rd March. For all other year groups there will be an Exam Week in June (week beginning 20th June). Further information on this will follow nearer the time.

Thank you in advance for your continued support.

With kind regards,

Mrs Wright – Headteacher

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Changes to the self-isolation period for those who test positive for COVID-19

From Monday 17 January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be [reported to NHS Test and Trace](#).

If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

Further [information on self-isolation for those with COVID-19](#) is available.

Temporary suspension of confirmatory PCR tests in education and childcare settings

Confirmatory PCR testing following a positive result on a lateral flow device (LFD) was temporarily suspended from Tuesday 11 January. This means that for all education and childcare settings, staff and students who have tested (either at home or through ATS) and reported a positive LFD result will no longer be advised to get a confirmatory PCR test.

This change is informed by public health advice. With high COVID-19 rates, the risk of a positive LFD result being false is very small. We therefore don't need to ask people to do a confirmatory PCR unless they:

- have symptoms (in which case they need to follow the stay at home guidance, self-isolate and order a PCR test)
- wish to claim the Test and Trace Support Payment
- have been advised to take a PCR test because they are in a clinically vulnerable group
- have been advised to do so as part of a research or surveillance programme

Education and childcare settings are not expected to trace contacts of a positive case as this will remain the responsibility of NHS Test and Trace. From Tuesday 11 January, contact tracing is triggered once a positive LFD test is reported.

Students should be strongly encouraged to test twice weekly at home and to [report all results to NHS Test and Trace](#) and to their setting. Anyone with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate and follow self-isolation guidance.

Information on the new arrangements can be found in the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).

Reporting test results for schools and colleges

Reporting test results every time pupils, students and staff take an LFD test means the NHS always gets the latest, most accurate information. This helps them to keep track of where the virus is spreading, provide support where it is needed and protect local communities across the country.

Please remind pupils, students and staff of the importance of reporting all tests results (positive, negative and void) to NHS Test and Trace and their setting. Tests should also be reported online through the [report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result](#) page which should only take a couple of minutes.

It is important to continue with twice weekly LFD testing and reporting.



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Finally, Public Health England/NHS will be texting all parents on Monday 17th January 2022, to advise that they can still book their child in for a flu vaccination. This is in response to recent media activity about health impacts of flu on children. The text will direct parents to contact 119 service should they have missed the flu sessions in schools. Intrahealth is commissioned by Public Health to deliver the School flu immunisation programme. Our team has prepared external clinic catch up sessions to deliver additional flu vaccines within the LEA, outside of School hours. Please note that parents can contact the Intrahealth flu vaccination team on gmschoolflu@intrahealth.co.uk to book in appointments this month (Ideally giving school name/borough and a contact number in the email).