



Saint Benedict
A Catholic Voluntary Academy

26th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

May I start by thanking you for your support over the past half term. So much has been asked of you and this has been a challenging time for parents, but you have been a superb source of support to your children and to the school and for this I am very grateful. I am very pleased to be writing to you with some positive news.

You will probably have seen or read the news stories about schools being asked to implement a return to school for all pupils **from** Monday 8th March. I am writing to you today to explain how we intend to respond to the government announcement. In order to ensure that we can comply with government guidance regarding the need to conduct Lateral Flow testing (LFD) and ensuring the safest return possible, we will operate a **phased return plan from** Monday 8th March. In essence this means it allows us to conduct one LFD test for each consenting pupil before they return to our academy. For us, this equates to thousands of tests we have to administer before pupils can return to school.

In summary, this means:

- The academy will continue to remain open to **vulnerable and critical worker** pupils during the week beginning 8th March. As other year groups return, these pupils will return to their normal classes.
- A schedule of LFD testing and phased return for pupils will commence from Monday 8th March (please see plan below). Remote learning will remain in place during this period for those pupils who are not yet in school.
- From Monday 15th March, all pupils should come into school as they did prior to this most recent lockdown and will remain in their same year group bubbles.
- All consenting pupils will take part in two further LFD tests after they have returned.
- **In addition to pupils wearing a face covering in communal spaces, pupils will now be required to wear face coverings whilst in the classroom (exemptions still apply). This is an extra, temporary measure and will be reviewed at Easter.**
- School-led 'Test & Trace' will recommence upon pupils' return.
- All other normal control measures, which include use of hand sanitisers and one-way systems throughout the day will remain in place and pupils are still expected to follow these measures on return.

LFD Testing Programme

Testing for those without Coronavirus symptoms is now well-established in school, with over 1000 tests already being carried out on staff and pupils, using lateral flow devices. As you will be aware, up to one third of people who have Coronavirus are asymptomatic. LFD testing helps to reduce the spread in school settings through asymptomatic transmission. The government announced that pupils will need to have three LFD tests; one prior to pupils recommencing on-site provision. After the three on-site tests, the latest government guidance is that parents/carers will be asked to test their children at home twice a week using rapid tests. At the time of writing this letter, we are awaiting further clarification as to how this will be rolled out.

I am strongly encouraging those pupils returning to school to be tested and if you have not already given consent, you will be contacted by a member of staff. You can also still give consent online by following this link: <https://forms.gle/pSTqc2oVgHMaBkmK7>. We require **ALL** pupils to complete this form (one form per pupil that attends school). We will continue to register pupils with NHS Test & Trace and the results will be shared directly with the person named on the consent form.

If a pupil tests positive on a lateral flow device test, they will be informed immediately and then will need to self-isolate for 10 days and follow the guidance from the NHS. We will notify you to come and collect your child. If either a staff member or pupil is identified as a close contact of a positive case, they will be notified and will need to self-isolate immediately for 10 days and follow the published guidance.



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NOTTINGHAM

Saint Benedict Voluntary Academy
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enquiries@saintben.derby.sch.uk
Company Number 7937154



**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



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Phased Return & Testing Plan

- Year groups will be phased back over the week beginning 8th March with Exam classes being prioritised.
- On arrival to school, pupils will be met and directed to a socially distanced waiting area until they receive a negative test result, at which time they can move to their lessons and begin to follow their normal timetable.
- Having analysed the case rate across Derby we anticipate that there may be as many as 10-15 asymptomatic cases on return. Testing in school over recent weeks has also identified positive cases. It is therefore vital that we can socially distance pupils in school until they have had their test results to avoid having to send home any contacts to isolate for 10 days which is still a requirement.
- To enable all pupils to be distanced until they receive their test results we will have two start times to the day during this week, one for each half of the year group. Where possible, we would ask that pupils make their way to school without travelling on buses to reduce the likelihood of contact with other pupils before testing.
- We will run two bus services per day. A morning service at the normal time for half of the year group and a later service which will bring the other half of the year group into school for 12pm midday. Morning pick up times will be the same as usual. We will send later bus collection times next week as soon as these are agreed with the bus company. All pupils in school will go home as normal on the bus at the end of the day once testing has taken place.
- All year groups which have been tested the previous day should come into school on their normal morning bus for the rest of the week.
- Any pupils who do not have consent to be tested will wait with the rest of their year group while testing takes place and return to class when testing is complete.
- On Friday 5 March, work may be set online as opposed to live in order to give staff time to prepare classrooms for the return of pupils on Monday 8 March. Please check Satchel One for details for this day.

Our proposed schedule for phased return and testing is:

| Date | Year and tutor groups* |
|---|------------------------|
| Monday 8 th March 2021 – 8:40am | 11 SAINTB and Year 13 |
| Monday 8 th March 2021 – 12:00pm | 11 EDCO |
| Tuesday 9 th March 2021 – 8:40am | 10 SAINTB and Year 12 |
| Tuesday 9 th March 2021 – 12:00pm | 10 EDCO |
| Wednesday 10 th March 2021 – 8:40am | 7 SAINTB |
| Wednesday 10 th March 2021 – 12:00pm | 7 EDCO |
| Thursday 11 th March 2021 – 8:40am | 8 SAINTB |
| Thursday 11 th March 2021 – 12:00pm | 8 EDCO |
| Friday 12 th March 2021 – 8:40am | 9 SAINTB |
| Friday 12 th March 2021 – 12:00pm | 9 EDCO |

*please see appendix at the end of this document for the list of tutors and tutor groups.



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Waiting areas on arrival to school for each tutor group are as follows:

| Tutor Group letter | Location |
|--------------------|------------------|
| S | Dining Hall |
| A | Marquee |
| INT | Sports Hall |
| B | South Block Hall |
| EDC | Sports Hall |
| O | South Block Hall |
| 12/13 | Gym |

If your child develops symptoms at any time (including a high temperature, a new continuous cough or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate and book a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> . If your child tests positive, please inform school immediately using the email: safeguarding@saintben.derby.sch.uk

I cannot stress enough to all our parents and carers that if we are to maintain the safety of our school community, that consenting to your child taking part in the LFD testing is vital. Therefore, if you have not already completed the consent form, please do so as a matter of urgency.

Thank you for supporting us and we look forward to seeing all our pupils return to school from Monday 8th March.

Kind regards

Kevin Gritton
Headteacher



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TUTOR GROUPS

| | Year 7 | Year 8 | Year 9 | Year 10 | Year 11 |
|----------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| S | Mr G Rowlands 23 | Miss E Hagan 5 | Mr S Hopkins 30 | Miss A Naylor L2 | Mrs A Bateman D3 |
| A | Mrs J Burton 38 | Mr S Moss 44 | Mr A Snell 43 | Mrs E Hoy L4 | S Musson 13 |
| I | Mr J Jarvis 24 | Miss T Hayre 7 | Miss K Godkin 46 | Mrs A West/Mr A Phelan 66 | Mr D McGonagle 12 |
| N | Miss L Kelly 39 | Miss A M Hill 11 | MsGold/Miss McDonald 42 | Mr G Rimmer L1 | Mr A Fox 16 |
| T | Mr M Robinson 25 | Miss M Cadet 1 | Mr D Reddington 40 | Mrs O Wallace/Mrs Sobola L6 | Miss E McGuinness 17 |
| B | Mrs M Peden 37 | Ms S Wickens 4 | Ms Burton-Wall 53 | Miss Brown-Messam 65 | Mrs C Beardsley 19 |
| E | Miss N Mills 26 | Mrs A Clewes 10 | Mr R Hurley 48 | Mr Boulter 64 | Ms E Snow 14 |
| D | Mr I Lewis M | Mr R Long 3 | Mr D Browne 41 | Mr N Saunders L3 | Ms A Billyeald 15 |
| C | Miss L Wilson 27 | Mr A Tomlinson 6 | Mrs F Goss 49 | Miss A Baines L5 | Mrs J Rowlands D4 |
| O | Dr E Burguin 28 | Miss C Kureczko 2 | Mr J Atkinson 47 | Mr R Pattinson 58 | Mr K Johanson 18 |