



St Cuthbert Mayne School

Joint Catholic and Church of England 11-18 Comprehensive School Dioceses of Plymouth and Exeter

Headteacher
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Dear Parents,

On Monday night the Prime Minister laid out the government's route map to take the country out of the current lockdown. We are looking forward to welcoming all students back to school, but I hope you will appreciate that we have much to plan over the next few days.

I am pleased that schools are at the very top of the list of establishments to return. However, the reporting by the government and some media has not been clear on the practicalities of this.

Although all primary school children will return to school in full-time education from March 8th, this is not the same situation for secondary school children. The return to school for secondary school children will be phased, beginning on Monday 8th March.

A plan for the return of children will be sent to you as soon as this is finalised, but please be assured that we are working hard on planning and preparations this week.

School testing on-site

As you may already be aware, all secondary schools must offer COVID-19 testing on-site. We have been asked by the government to offer 3 Lateral Flow tests to students, to take place 3 to 5 days apart. This equates to 2,760 tests at STCM over the first two weeks. In order to be able to offer this we will need to stagger the return of students to school. We will also need more volunteers to help with the testing programme. If you are able to support with this, please kindly email our Testing Team Leader - Miss Hannah Aske at: hannah.aske@stcm.torbay.sch.uk

Students will **not** be tested if parents haven't given consent, so please rest assured that your child will not be tested without your permission. Students not undergoing testing will be asked to return to school in line with their phased return arrangements.

We would encourage as many parents as possible to provide consent as we believe this will help us to detect any asymptomatic cases, and help to keep the school community safe. To give your consent you must complete the online form via the link below. Any children without a form issuing parental consent will not be tested.



[Student Consent Form](#)

The first 3 tests will be administered in school and then parents will be given lateral flow test kits to test their children at home. The government expectation is that this happens twice a week at home. The results are then reported to Test and Trace as soon as the test is complete either online or by telephone as per the instructions you will receive. More information will be shared with parents in due course.

Attendance

The DfE has been clear with schools that attendance in school is not optional following the phased return. The usual rules and duties around school attendance will be in place from Monday 8th March. We will continue to support your child in their return to school and welcome your support with this. Teachers and staff are very much looking forward to all children returning to the school.

Face Masks

In addition, for a limited period, possibly until Easter, 'the use of face coverings will be compulsory in classrooms, and other teaching spaces, unless wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, for example in PE lessons, or for those who are exempt from wearing a face covering as set out in the DfE guidance. Please ensure your child brings a face mask to school every day.

If your child is exempt from wearing a face covering and you have not informed us then please email your child's Head of Year and Tutor as soon as possible.

Examinations

For students in Years 11 and 13, we are still awaiting information from Ofqual and the DfE regarding how students will be assessed, and how grades will be awarded. We are expecting confirmation by the end of this week. As soon as we know more we will let you know the plans.

Catch-up

Later today, the government will announce the plans for a national catch-up strategy. We will take a view on this once the detail of the strategy has been published.

School uniform

It is really important that all students have full school uniform ready for their return to school from Monday 8th March. Please use the next week to ensure your child has the uniform they need and the equipment to learn.

School uniform can be ordered through our online shop:

School routines

Over the next two weeks you can help to prepare your child for the return to school by regularising sleeping habits and ensuring that they take part in as many activities as possible during remote learning sessions. Also, it would help if you could fit in additional exercise. These don't need to be every day but our experience after the last long lockdown was that many children did not have the stamina for the longer school days, and by half term some were really flagging.

Staff will take the next two weeks to busily prepare the school for their return. Remote learning will continue as before and all staff will also be planning for the last four weeks of term to ensure a smooth transition from remote to school based learning.

Without doubt, this has been an unprecedented year. I want to thank the large number of parents who completed the online survey to help us evaluate our remote learning provision. What has come through clearly is that the combination of strong support from home, engagement of students and the continued development of remote learning by the staff has really supported learning and well-being during this period of lockdown.

Yours sincerely,



Mr James Down

Headteacher