



St. Anthony's

SPECIALIST SCHOOL ●●

Headteacher: Mr Robert Page

Tel: (01843) 292015

Email: admin@st-anthonys.kent.sch.uk

Web: www.st-anthonys.kent.sch.uk

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Dear Parents/Carers

COVID Update

Covid Testing

We are continuing to follow a home-testing model for staff and secondary students. Primary age pupils are not tested with LFD's as PHE have advised there are currently limited public health benefits attached to testing primary pupils with these. **All staff and secondary pupils should be testing twice a week** with Lateral Flow Tests provided by school, if you need more just let us know.

If anyone tests positive with an LFD, they must self-isolate in line with the stay-at-home guidance. If a confirmatory PCR test is then taken within 2 days of the positive LFD test, and is negative, it overrides the LFD test, and the individual can return to school or college.

We have a small asymptomatic testing centre on site in case we need to test pupils who are unable or unwilling to test themselves at home.

As you know, the government have said we are now entering Step 3 of the Roadmap out of Lockdown. Although many restrictions are being lifted, all schools are still expected to follow government guidelines and it is important you understand this, as your children may not be allowed in school.

COVID-19 symptoms

Pupils, students, staff and other adults **must not** come into the school if:

- they have one or more COVID-19 symptoms; a cough, a temperature, a loss of taste or smell.
- a member of their household (including someone in their support bubble or childcare bubble if they have one) has COVID-19 symptoms.
- they are legally required to quarantine having recently travelled from certain other countries outside the Common Travel Area.
- they have had a positive test.
- have been in close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19.

They must immediately cease to attend and not attend for at least 10 days from the day after:

- the start of their symptoms
- the test date if they didn't have any symptoms but have had a positive lateral flow device (LFD)

If symptoms are apparent in school, we will:

- send your child home to begin isolation – the isolation period includes the day the symptoms started and the next 10 full days.
- advise you to follow the guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection.
- advise you to arrange to have a test as soon as possible to see if they have COVID-19.
- other members of your household should self-isolate.

Anyone told to isolate by NHS Test and Trace or by their public health protection team, has a legal obligation to self-isolate, but you may leave home to avoid injury or illness or to escape the risk of harm.

Face Coverings

Face coverings will no longer be recommended for pupils in classrooms or communal areas in all schools. Face coverings will also no longer be recommended for staff in classrooms. The recommendation is that face coverings should be worn by staff and visitors in situations outside of classrooms where social distancing is not possible (for example, when moving around in corridors and communal areas).

As you are probably aware, the Covid vaccination programme has been going really well across the country. Cases of Covid are also very low. However, we must all remain vigilant - in particular against the threat from new COVID-19 variants. We will continue to risk assess in school and do our best to keep everyone safe.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns about this.

Robert Page
Headteacher