



2 March 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians and Pupils

We're delighted to be welcoming all of our pupils back to campus on Monday 8 March. We have missed you all and can't wait for our campus to be buzzing again with the sound of your voices.

It's been a long few weeks and we know that lockdown has been hard for all of you in different ways. To the absolute credit of our pupils and families, and of the staff, you have kept focused and kept going and made progress even when the circumstances have been difficult. You should be immensely proud of that, as we are of you.

The information below sets out key information for the return to onsite learning – please read it carefully as, although life at St Chris will be broadly similar to how we were operating before Christmas, some of the information does differ.

If you would like to read the guidance for schools and for parents in full, you can find it on [the Department for Education website here](#).

We are updating our 'Guide to the School Year' to reflect the changes. This, along with other updates, will be [available on our website here](#).

Key Headlines

- From 8 March, all teaching will be 'face to face' in class groups, and will follow the existing timetable.
- The Department for Education's guidance states that school attendance will be mandatory for all pupils from 8 March.
 - Because of this, we will not be offering Blended Learning as a matter of course, however will continue to offer Remote Learning for those pupils needing to self-isolate because of coronavirus on a case by case basis.
 - We're aware that some pupils and families will find the return to physical schooling difficult after such an extended time away. We will continue to work with and support those pupils with the goal of them returning to on-site schooling as soon as possible however, as always, our pastoral team will do this in a way that is supportive and tailored to the individual.
- Further information for Year 11 and Year 13 pupils about mock exams has been sent by Andy Selkirk, Academic Director, with a further update about the plan for the awarding of GCSEs and A Levels to follow.

As a reminder for all parents and pupils, on our return, we must all continue to adhere to the following principles:

- We must all follow Public Health England (PHE) 'systems of control to minimise the risks of coronavirus transmission' ie. social distancing, respiratory hygiene, hand washing/cleaning, avoid touching face and enhanced cleaning.



- Pupils, staff and other adults **should not come into school if they have coronavirus symptoms** and will be sent home if these symptoms develop at school.
- All members of the St Chris community must adhere to quarantine restrictions when travelling to the UK from abroad, and have completed their period of quarantine before returning to school.
- We must engage with NHS track and trace. This means the school is required to ensure staff or children book a test if they are displaying symptoms. They must also be prepared to provide details of anyone they have been in close contact with if they test positive and self-isolate if there has been close contact with anyone with coronavirus (COVID-19).
- We must minimise contact and mixing between people to reduce transmission. For pupils this is the use of “bubbles”
- We will be ready to revert to online learning for a particular group of pupils (ie. a bubble) in the event that they need to self-isolate.

Asymptomatic COVID testing for pupils and staff

Rapid testing using Lateral Flow Devices (LFD)s to test for asymptomatic Coronavirus (COVID-19) is being rolled out to schools to support the return to face-to-face education by helping to identify people who are infectious but do not have any coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms.

Secondary school pupils, and all staff at St Chris will be offered testing. The tests are not being offered to Junior School pupils.

Although the tests are not mandatory but we would like to encourage pupils and staff to make use of them. Along with the other protective measures we are taking, they will help pupils and staff remain in school safely, so we would like to encourage

Further information including the timetable for testing has been sent out to parents by Martin Scoble, Bursar.

There will be some disruption to learning as the test process takes place. We will try to keep this to a minimum but please bear with us for the next couple of weeks while we offer on-site testing, as required by the Government as part of schools re opening.

Face coverings

The guidance on face coverings has changed nationally, but for our pupils, these changes reflect those that we implemented in November. The guidelines state that:

- Face coverings should be worn by all Senior School pupils in indoor areas (including classrooms and corridors). Pupils do not have to wear face coverings during activities in PE lessons and there is guidance for drama, dance and music which will be communicated to pupils by their Head of Department or teacher on their return to school.
- There are exemptions for those who rely on “visual signals for communication, or communicate with or provide support to such individuals”. There are a number of pupils in the Senior School who are exempted from wearing a face covering – those pupils will continue to be exempted on our return.



- Face coverings should also be worn by staff and adult visitors in the Senior School in indoor areas. In the Junior School, face coverings should be worn by staff and adult visitors in situations where social distancing between adults is not possible, for example, when moving around in corridors and communal areas.

While we do have spare face coverings in school, please could parents ensure that their child always has at least one spare face mask with them, and that face masks are replaced regularly (if they are disposable masks) or laundered frequently (if reusable).

Start and end of the school day

The guidance in relation to the beginning and end of the school day reflects the need for staggered starts, so we will be running the same plan as we were the Autumn Term.

As a reminder:

Junior School

- Parents of Monte and K Group (Nursery and Reception) children will be allowed to take their children into school. (Parents please wear a face covering) No other parents will be allowed to enter the building
- Parents should follow the one-way system.

	Drop Off Time	End Time	Entry/Exit Point
Nursery (Monte)	8:00 - 8:20 am	3:20 pm	Back playground/Side gate to nursery garden
Reception (K Group)	8:00 - 8:20 am	3:20 pm	Back playground/K Group Playground Area
Year 1 (J Group)	8:00 - 8:20 am	3:20 pm	Back playground/Main back door to Junior School
Year 2 (H Group)	8:00 - 8:20 am	3:20 pm	Back playground/Back door of classroom
Year 3 (G Group)	8:00 - 8:20 am	3:20 pm	Top gate/Nursery entrance
Year 4 (F Group)	8:00 - 8:20 am	3:20 pm	Top gate/back door of classroom
Year 5 (E Group)	8:00 - 8:20 am	3:20 pm	Top gate/back door of classroom
Year 6 (D Group)	8:00 - 8:20 am	3:20 pm	Top gate/front door of Junior School

Senior School

- On arrival, pupils should go straight to their Company Room bubbles as previously.

	Start Time	End Time	Entry/Exit Point
Year 7 (I Group)	8:15 - 8:35 am	3:45 pm	Back gate (Green)
Year 8 (II Group)	8:15 - 8:35 am	3:45 pm	Bike rack gate (by History)
Year 9 (III Group)	8:15 - 8:35 am	3:50 pm	Back gate (Green)
Year 10 (IV Group)	8:15 - 8:35 am	3:55 pm	Bike rack gate (by History)
Year 11 (V Group)	8:15 - 8:35 am	3:55 pm	Big steel gates by Sixth Form
Sixth Form	8:15 - 8:35 am	3:55 pm	Sixth Form side door



Educational visits and extra-curricular activities

No educational visits (school trips) are allowed at this time.

In the Junior School, we will re-start after school clubs (and wrap around care) after the Easter holidays. If you require wrap around care, please contact katie.wright@stchris.co.uk

In the Senior School, Thursday Options provision will start again on Thursday 11 March for all pupils in Year 7 (I Group) to Year 10 (IV Group). Special provision for Year 11 (V Group) catch up sessions in English and Science will continue during Option time.

Extra-curricular activities will take place during the final two weeks of term. Director of Activities, Byron Lewis, is currently compiling the list of clubs on offer and will be in touch with pupils to confirm by the end of this week.

Pastoral support

It is likely that some pupils, parents and households may be reluctant or anxious about attending school even if they are looking forward to it. This may include pupils who have shielded in the past but no longer need to, or those living in a household with someone who is clinically vulnerable or extremely vulnerable.

As ever, please contact your class teacher (Junior School) or Adviser/Personal Tutor (Senior School) to discuss any worries that you have about returning to school, and we will support those pupils who may find the transition difficult on a case by case basis.

For pupils or for families who would like further support, there are also a number of resources available that you may find helpful:

- [Childline](#): Tips for going back to school; school work and exam stress; tips to boost your confidence; returning after time out;
- [Place2Be](#): Mental health resources linked to the return to school;
- [NSPCC](#): Resources to help prepare both younger and older children for the return to school;
- [Trauma Informed Schools UK](#): Recognising and responding to anxiety

International pupils and boarding

Many of our boarders have been in school since January and are very much looking forward to seeing their fellow pupils in person!

I would like to thank our boarders, their families and guardians, and our boarding team, who have been fantastically positive throughout.

For those pupils based in the UK who are returning to boarding for 8 March, our Houseparents will be in touch with you to discuss your return.

For those pupils based overseas, there is updated guidance on travel and quarantine, which we will discuss with you on a one to one basis. Please contact the Houseparents in the first instance to discuss further.



For now, have a good last week of remote learning – we're nearly there! Keep taking care of yourselves and each other and we'll look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Best wishes

Emma-Kate Henry

Emma-Kate Henry
Head