



Dear parents and carers,

I hope you are well and enjoying a lovely summer break.

As we look forward to welcoming students back to school in September 2021, I would like to take this opportunity to clarify the arrangements for their return. You will be aware that the government has instructed schools to set up testing sites in order to complete two LFD tests, the first test is to be completed prior to students' school return and the second test 3-5 days later. To facilitate this, there will be a staggered return for students in September.

Please see the summary below:

Year Group	Test 1 (prior to start)	Return to School	Test 2 (whilst in school)
Years 7 & 12	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sept	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> Sept
Years 11 & 13	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> Sept
Years 8, 9 & 10	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> Sept

Students can arrive for tests any time between 9am and 3pm on their allocated day and should report to the gym via the doors on the playground. Testing is **not** compulsory. Students who are not tested are still able to return to school on the date indicated in the above table.

The school must gain consent for all students aged 11-15. The guidance issued to schools confirms that the parental consent gathered from previous in-school testing can be carried forward and used for this round of testing. If you have previously given consent for your child to be tested, and have changed your mind and no longer wish for them to be tested, please email [admin@st-thomas-more.net](mailto:admin@st-thomas-more.net). We will gather consent from new Year 7 parents shortly via ParentMail. A nil return will be categorised as no consent given and no test will be performed.

The guidance permits students aged 16-18 to give consent directly and we do not need to gain parental consent. Students aged 16-18 will be asked to consent prior to the test being completed.

This is a one-off round of on-site testing. Following these two tests, students will be issued with LFD test kits to allow them to continue to test twice per week at home and upload results directly onto the government results portal. You would only need to inform the school, if your child receives a positive result.

In-line with the updated government policy, which came into force on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> August, 'close contacts' will no longer have to self-isolate. Instead, students identified by the NHS Track and Trace service as having had close contact with someone that has tested positive, will be encouraged to complete a PCR test. This is voluntary and if students prefer not to access a test, they are still permitted to attend school. If a student subsequently tests positive, they should follow NHS guidance and self-isolate for 10 days.

From September there will no longer be restrictions in place for schools regarding movement and the mixing of students around the school site; there will be no bubbles or staggered start/finish times in September. Subsequently, school starts at 8:50am for all students and finishes at 3:10pm. All students should aim to be on site by 8:45am daily.

Students are not expected to wear facemasks whilst on school site although they can, if they choose to. Students **must** continue to wear facemasks on public transport – this includes school buses. We will maintain hand sanitising stations in each classroom and other areas of the school.

I look forward to seeing students wearing their St Thomas More uniform with pride from September. We have previously issued the updated uniform policy and this is available on the school website. Please be reminded that for students who choose to wear skirts, they should be knee-length (and not rolled up), no jeans or skinny fitted/cropped trouser are permitted and trainers are not allowed to be worn in school, except during PE. If you have any queries, or issues relating to uniform, please contact us on [admin@st-thomas-more.net](mailto:admin@st-thomas-more.net)

If you have any queries about the return to school for your child, please text 07493034463 or email [admin@st-thomas-more.net](mailto:admin@st-thomas-more.net) and we will endeavour to respond to your query.

Kind regards

Leearna Thomas  
Principal