

St Matthew Academy

St Joseph's Vale, Blackheath, London SE3 0XX

Headteacher: Ms Miranda Baldwin

Head of Primary: Ms Joanna Chick



4 March 2021

Dear Parent and Carers

As you are aware from the recent Government announcement schools will begin to return from Monday 8th March. It was also announced that pupils are expected to be tested on site before they can return to classroom based lessons. In order to facilitate this and maintain separate bubbles we have organised very specific return times for each year group and form group.

On Monday 8 March, Year 9 will remain at home and be taught remotely in order to minimise the amount of disruption to their learning. We have arranged for Year 9 to attend the Academy on Tuesday afternoon so they can have their first test, this will then allow all year 9 pupils to return on Wednesday 10 March for a normal academic day.

Pupils must attend in full school uniform at the allotted time below. Pupils will be dismissed once they have been tested and asked to return home immediately. The test result will be sent to the number and email address provided on the consent form, which should normally be within 30 to 40 minutes of being tested.

Tuesday 9th March 2021	
Form Group	Arrival time
9.1	1.20pm
9.2	1.45pm
9.3	2.05pm
9.4	2.30pm
9.5	2.55pm
9.6	3.20pm

If you have not yet given consent for your child to take part in the Covid testing programme, you can do so by completing the google form via the link below:

<https://forms.gle/VfWkZVbw54TgeVwv9>

We would like to thank you for your support during lockdown and the remote learning period. Engagement has been fantastic from pupils and staff have worked incredibly hard to deliver high quality lessons. We are now looking forward to having all our pupils back on site.

Preparations are in full swing so that all pupils can return to full time, face-to-face education. We wrote to you just before Christmas with details of changes that were due to happen in January but due to lockdown were not implemented. Those planned changes to the school day will now go ahead so please take time to familiarise yourself with them.

Timing of Day

Start time	Entry to the Academy	Dismissal time
8.35am	8.30am	2.55pm

Before and After School

It is important to remember Government COVID restrictions will still be in place when pupils return. Pupils will have to follow these restrictions both on their journeys to the Academy and at the end of the day.

: 0208 853 6250 : info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk : www.stmatthewacademy.co.uk : @stmatcad

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Successful, confident learners High expectations, outstanding achievements Inclusive, caring, Catholic community Nurturing talent, cultivating ambition Excellence for all

- Pupils will be expected to travel to and from school on their own where possible
- Face covering should be worn on public transport
- All pupils should make their way straight home at the end of each day and avoid spending any time in Lewisham or surrounding areas
- We expect pupil behaviour to be exemplary while traveling to and from the Academy

We will have staff on duty in both Lewisham and the surrounding areas and any pupil not following these clear instructions will face sanctions in the Academy the following day. Lewisham Safer Schools Police Team have also informed us that they will be patrolling these areas and will be engaging with any pupil not following the restrictions and have the option of taking **enforcement action by issuing fixed penalty notices**. Please see the attached letter. It is vital that we have your support on this issue in order to ensure the safety of our pupils but also that of the wider community.

Face Coverings

The Government has made the wearing of face coverings mandatory for pupils both in communal areas and now in classrooms. We will issue every pupil with another SMA snood on their return, which will have to be worn in communal areas. There will be an expectation that pupils will have their own supply of face coverings that will be worn in lessons. If a pupil does not have a face covering one will be provided but a detention will be issued. The wearing of face coverings is a non-negotiable aspect of returning to the Academy. Anyone requiring a medical exemption will need to apply via the following link <https://forms.gle/fx7ZtXby666VxJkM9> and an exemption lanyard can then be issued.

Sanctions

Our sanction system will be reinstated on our return from Lockdown. The incremental scale for detentions is as follows:

- 1 Behaviour Point in the day = Form Tutor Detention (20 minutes)
- 2 Behaviour Points in the day = Centralised Detention (1 hour)
- 3 Behaviour Points in the week = Friday SLT Detention (2 hours)
- 4+ Behaviour Points in the week = Saturday Detention (8.40-11.40am)
- Missed Saturday Detention = BSR for 1 day and the detention will be completed the following Saturday

Punctuality

Across the Academy we will have a drive on punctuality on our return and there is a clear expectation and need for every pupil to arrive on time each day. Bus restrictions are in place and traffic is always an issue in the area, so these factors must be planned for and factored into journey times in order to avoid arriving late.

Support

We know that Lockdown has been an incredibly difficult time for everyone and we are here to support all our pupils. If your family has suffered bereavement or any other difficulties during this time, then please let us know so that we can help you find the relevant support.

We are really looking forward to welcoming our pupils back and to our academy community feeling whole again. With your support we can ensure everyone is safe, happy and ready to achieve.

Yours faithfully



Mr R Wanza
Assistant Headteacher – Key Stage 4



Mr J Charlery
Director of Learning for Year 9



Dear Parent/Guardian

The Metropolitan Police Safer Schools Team based at Lewisham Police Station are asking parents/guardians to support the police by encouraging their children to not breach current government COVID restrictions before and after school. This is for the protection of themselves and others during this global pandemic.

Safer Schools police officers will be patrolling before and after school in the Lewisham High Street, Forest Hill, Deptford/New Cross and Catford Broadway areas to enforce any breaches of COVID-19 restrictions. We will be engaging with any groups and encouraging them to leave the area and explain to them the importance of social distancing.

If a student is seen to breach COVID-19 restrictions, officers will contact the student's school for appropriate sanctions to be taken, in line with the Education Act. Should the advice be ignored and public safety is compromised, officers have the option to take enforcement action. This includes the option to issue fixed penalty notices to parents or guardians of children who are not following the rules.

Current regulations can be found at www.legislation.gov.uk.

We would ask parents and guardians to take the practical steps to check the current position and ensure your child is not committing an offence by breaching COVID-19 restrictions.

We all need to continue to do our part to prevent the spread of the virus.

Yours faithfully

PS Aaron King

Lewisham Safer Schools Partnership