

1st September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you have had a relaxing summer and have been able to enjoy more normal activities. As we return to school for the new academic year, I wanted to update you some of the changes that have been announced over the summer and what this will mean for our Academy community.

As you will know, the direction of the pandemic has been encouraging and we are all moving about in a more open way. The new guidance for September (which has applied from 19th July) has been published.

The key amendments for us are as follows:

- There will be no year group bubbles: Collective Worship; teaching rooms; sporting fixtures and visits will be as normal
- No masks will be required within school (classrooms, communal areas), however, students and staff may choose to wear them if they wish to do so
- Face coverings are strongly recommended when using ALL school transport
- Contact tracing will be by NHS Track and Trace, via the individual student/family (although they may seek information from the Academy) who will then be asked to take a PCR test. Students may continue to attend school if they need to take a PCR test as long as they have no symptoms whilst they await the result of their PCR
- Only confirmed positive cases must self-isolate.

Measures which will remain to ensure the safety of our students are:

- One-way systems will continue to operate
- Separate staircases for year groups:
 - Y7 = Yellow staircase
 - Y8 and Y9 = Green staircase
 - Y10 and Y11 – Purple staircase
- Recreational Zones at break and lunch times:
 - Y7 in Zone 1
 - Y8 and Y9 in Zone 2
 - Y10 and Y11 in Zone 3

As an additional measure, as per the new guidance, we will continue to promote the following actions:

- Ensure good hygiene for everyone.
- Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
- Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Hygiene and ventilation are still emphasised and therefore we will continue to keep all classroom windows and doors open. Schools are still required to have outbreak management plans and we are confident that we could quickly and effectively revert to this if required. Details of the Outbreak Management Plan can be found on our website.

Testing

To ensure the safest possible return to school, the Government is advising that all students should be tested. Consent forms were issued to parents at the end of the summer term. If you have not already done so, please return this consent form as soon as possible to enable us to make the best possible preparations. We would encourage all students to be tested on site unless they are medically exempt.

Proud to be a member of



ALL SAINTS
Multi Academy Trust

All Saints Multi Academy Trust is the operating name for The Liverpool Joint Catholic and Church of England Academies Trust

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Communication

We will email all general school letters to parent/carers, copies will also be placed on the Academy website.

Standards and Expectations

As we look forward to the new academic year and all of our exciting plans, I wanted to remind you about the uniform standards that were outlined when I last wrote to you. Full details can be found on our website <http://theacademyofstnicholas.org.uk/uniform> To assist parent/carers, we have produced a comprehensive pictorial guide detailing items that are acceptable/not acceptable with regards to shoes and school bags.

School bags will be expected to be able to carry A4 sized books and folders. They should have two straps and be waterproof, to protect exercise books. Students are **not** allowed fashion or handbag type styles. Please refer to the pictorial guidance if you are unsure.

PE Kit

When we return to the Academy in September, students will be able to use the changing rooms as normal.

Students are expected to wear full PE kit. NO brands or logos allowed.

Make-up, hairstyles, piercings and nail design.

The guidance on our website details the standards expected of students in relation to hairstyles, make-up, piercings and nail design. This also includes false lashes and nose piercings. Students with long hair **must** have it tied up for all practical lessons. Long fringes covering students' eyes are not permitted. Persistent failure to follow expectations may result in internal or external exclusion.

Mobile Phones

We understand that some students need to use their mobile phone to contact home when they are making their way to and from the Academy. However, students should make sure that their phones are switched off and placed in their school bags before they enter the Academy site. Any student failing to do so will have their phone confiscated. Earphones and pods are not permitted on site.

Healthy Snacks

We are delighted to be offering the Magic Breakfast again this year - all students are able to access this daily from 8:00 a.m. We also encourage all students to bring a healthy snack to school including fruit and water although we do offer food at breaktime. No fizzy/energy drinks are permitted, however, and these will be confiscated.

Please ensure you topped up your child's ParentPay account before they return to school to ensure they can purchase food items. Please contact reception if you have not yet received your ParentPay login.

Date	Arrival time*	Year groups	Rationale
Wednesday 1 st			Staff Inset Day
Thursday 2 nd			Staff Inset Day
Friday 3 rd	8:40 a.m.	Y7 and Y12	Full induction day: Transition and Standards
Monday 6 th	8:40 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:30a.m.	Y7 and Y12 Y10, Y11 and Y13 Y8 and Y9	Testing and Standards Assemblies/YGCW
Tuesday 7 th onwards	8:40 a.m.	All	Access Full Curriculum

***All students finish at 15:00 p.m.**

We look forward to welcoming our students back to us from Friday 3rd September and of course welcoming our new Y7 and Y12 students to the St. Nicholas family.

Yours faithfully



Mrs J Sing
Headteacher