



Thomas More Catholic School 11-19

Mr N. Walters, Headteacher

Russell Hill Road, Purley, Surrey, CR8 2XP

T. 020 8668 6251 E. schooloffice@tmore.org.uk W. www.tmore.org.uk

London Borough of Croydon
Roman Catholic Archdiocese
of Southwark

To Care. To Learn. To Achieve

4th March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you and your families are well. With pupils and students returning during the week of 8th March, it is paramount that we continue to keep everyone in our community safe, both children and staff. We have reviewed our measures that were used in September and will be continuing to use many of them again to ensure everyone is safe. The document that lists these measures can be easily found on the school website under the School tab. There are though some new measures which are outlined below:

New measures from 8th March:

Wearing of Face Coverings

The most significant change to the measures of control introduced by the government is that all students and staff are strongly recommended to wear a face covering in all classrooms as well as in corridors throughout the school day. This may bring some extra challenges, but it will play a vital part of us combatting COVID and reducing the risk of it entering and spreading throughout the school.

Please ensure that new face coverings are provided each day or that they are cleaned daily. I would also recommend that students bring a spare face covering each day just in case one is lost.

This is proposed to last until Easter and I hope that everyone will see that their duty to help other people feel reassured as well as to keep themselves safe for the next few short weeks.

Some staff will find teaching less effective and less possible with a face covering on but they will be distanced from the class and ventilation is being promoted throughout each lesson.

If you are looking for a mask with even greater protection, you are welcome to use a FFP2 or N95 mask. These are easily found online and are the type often used by people doing construction work. This may give some parents even more reassurance.



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Consent and non-Consent for Lateral Flow Testing

As you know from my previous letter, students will be completing three Lateral Flow Tests during their first two weeks of returning to school with each test being 3-5 days apart. They will be completing their first test on arrival on their first day, so it is important that the different year groups keep to their given day and time for their return to school. All this information is in the letter of yesterday and is easily found on the school website.

I strongly recommend that students bring a reading book with them so they have something to do whilst waiting on socially distanced chairs for the time it takes for the results to come through.

For some students, doing a self-administered test may be daunting for them. However, please be reassured that the testing team have all successfully completed the necessary training. We will be sending out a video later today that walks you through the process.

At this stage, we intend to only inform students and parents of positive results. Therefore, if you do not hear from the school, you can assume the test was negative.

We will inform any student and their parent if they have received a positive test result and they will then be required to self-isolate for 10 days, as will any members of the community who are identified as close contacts. Members of the household who subsequently test positive would also have to self-isolate.

Not being tested

If you have not consented to testing, your child should return to school the day after the testing day for your year group. There is still time to complete the consent form following the link below and we strongly recommend that you do consent so that we can do the best we can in keeping everyone safe. It is a quick and painless procedure and all the staff involved have been trained. So far we have had just over 90% return on forms which is great but we are still waiting to hear from just under 10%. Of that 90% only a small number have declined.

If you are choosing not to consent, your child should return on the day after your year group is being tested. This is not a sanction, I understand people will have their reasons, but simply so we can manage the logistics. If you do turn up on the day of testing and we do not have your consent form, we will see that as consent in the event of having not received a reply or your child will have to go home.

Link for consent form:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=7U_7LIQ_mUy89kHoQ1-ubgXausDT53JLqh809W1WM05URE9EVzVHTUdVUUUVBVkxJNkxTWji0T1ZMUS4u



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For those who have not consented to be tested the return dates are as follows:

Year 7 and 8 – Tuesday 9th March

Year 9 and 10 – Wednesday 10th March

Year 11 – Thursday 11th March

Sixth Form – Monday 8th March

If you have any queries or concerns please, in the first instant contact your child's Head of Year. The email addresses are listed below. If you have a specific query about testing or the measures being put in place please contact the deputy headteacher with oversight for this - Mr Kearns.

Year 7 and 8	Miss Ogbonnaya	mog@tmore.org.uk
Year 9	Mrs Osei-Fosu	mof@tmore.org.uk
Year 10	Miss Gayle	nga@tmore.org.uk
Year 11	Mr Ogwuda	uog@tmore.org.uk
Sixth Form	Ms Yost	lyo@tmore.org.uk
Deputy Headteacher	Mr Kearns	jke@tmore.org.uk

Yours faithfully,

Mr N Walters
Headteacher