



Thomas More Catholic School 11-19

Mr N. Walters, Headteacher
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London Borough of Croydon
Roman Catholic Archdiocese
of Southwark

To Care. To Learn. To Achieve

2nd March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well as I write to you at the start of your last week of being a home teacher. Every member of staff I have spoken to over the last few days has expressed how much they are looking forward to the pupils and students coming back and there are now only a few days to go. Educating pupils is what we are here for and we are looking forward to seeing the children back at Thomas More next week.

Here are the plans for the return. As I said last week, it has to be a staggered return to allow time for everyone to be tested. Please can pupils turn up at the time allocated to help us with the logistics. I would like to minimise waiting time and pupils will not be allowed on to the site until their allocated slot.

Pupils will be lined up with socially distanced gaps from the school gate to the reception area and wait their turn to go into the Main Hall for the testing which will be supervised by a group of trained staff but the pupils do the nasal swab themselves.

Once a year group has been tested, the pupils can go straight to class and their day will finish at the normal time.

Anyone who has not consented to testing should not come in on their testing day and you should await my update as to how and when you will return later in this week. I will be letting this group know later in the week because it really depends on how big this group is. At the moment it is quite a small group but we are still waiting for many more forms to be completed. Please do fill in the consent form as a matter of priority by clicking on this link:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=7U_7LIQ_mUy89kHoQ1-ubgXausDT53JLqH809W1WM05URE9EVzVHTUdVUUUVBVkxJNkxTWjI0T1ZMUS4u



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Here is the plan for the return of Year 7 students and the testing schedule:

Monday 8th March

Year 7 are to come in for testing one form at a time starting at 8:20am according to the following schedule:

7HBI – 8:20am

7MSA – 8:40am

7TOK – 9:20am

7JHW – 9:40am

After their test they will then go to class and follow their normal timetable.

Second and Third Tests

As you know, the government have said that all school children of secondary age are to be tested three times in the first two weeks but they can go back to class after the first test.

We will manage the second and third tests once everyone is back by taking classes down to the Main Hall. There will be no further need for a staggered return or later starts.

Fridays

We will continue to finish the day earlier on a Friday as we did for most of the autumn term so that our pupils can catch their buses smoothly and without a long delay. You probably remember that because other schools and colleges have altered their school day the buses were already full by the time they reached Purley.

In brief, Friday's lessons will be 50 minutes long and form time in the morning will be 10 minutes. This will allow us to finish no later than 1:45 and Year 7 and 8 will finish at 1:30pm. I hope this will give our pupils chance of catching a bus without a long wait.

Please can you stress to your children that they need to go straight home. Pupils and students should not be going to buy food with their friends after school as this leads to crowding in the shops. This, of course, applies to every day not just Friday.



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School Uniform

School uniform expectations remain the same on our return. I appreciate the shops are shut but online ordering is still possible and I urge you to sort it out sooner rather than later. Pupils who are in the correct uniform are much better prepared to get on with their classes and their learning.

In the case of shoes Shoe Zone <https://www.shoezone.com/> has some very good discounts available and shoes can be ordered at very reasonable prices. Hewitts is also open for online ordering. Please do not wait until next week to realise that you do not have shoes or any item of uniform.

Absence from School

Please be sure to once again tell us why your child is not in school if they are not here. This is really important. You can either email attendance@tmore.org.uk or phone the school and follow through the options to the attendance office. Also, please be sure to complete and return the N code forms when you receive them so that your child's register can be updated and the absence can be authorised.

Week B

Do remember that next week, the week beginning the 8th March, is a Week B.

Check list for pupils' return

1. Note the date and times for my child(ren) to return to school for testing and to return to in school lessons.
3. Ensure my child(ren) has reviewed their week B timetable, and has all equipment needed for their return to school.
4. Ensure my child(ren) has a minimum of two face coverings for their return to school.
5. Ensure my child(ren) will be able to return in full and complete school uniform.
6. Ensure my child(ren) knows when their PE/Sports lessons are taking place, and that they wear their correct school PE kit on these days.

Finally

We are very much looking forward to welcoming back all the year groups very soon. There will be at least one more update later this week when I will outline the expectations around face coverings at school and in the classroom. Keep going in your online learning for a bit longer.

God Bless and Kind regards,

Mr N. Walters
Headteacher