



THE JOHN FISHER SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr P E McCullagh BSc (Hons), PGCE, MA, NPQH

Peaks Hill
Purley
Surrey
CR8 3YP

5th March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

It was fantastic to see our Yr. 11, Yr. 12 & Yr. 13 students in school today for their first day of testing - 387 tests were carried out. Please inform your son that if he is displaying any of the symptoms of coronavirus then he must not come to school. Your son can only come in for a test if you have completed the consent form on your Edulink account or if he is 16 years of age or over and self-consents.

We have testing 10 bays in operation and there is guidance available at each bay on how to undertake the test, with a dedicated test assistant who can give verbal advice. Your son will undertake the test himself and when he has finished, he will move to the waiting area for approximately 30 minutes to wait for his result. If your son tests positive, then he will be asked to wait in a separate area and we will call you to come and collect him immediately. Your son and anyone in your household will have to self-isolate in line with government guidance. If your son has tested positive for Coronavirus in the past 90 days, he will not be able to take part in the testing until those 90 days are complete.

We have now carried out hundreds of these tests but have not had one positive test result, which may not offer much reassurance around the accuracy of these tests. Nevertheless, by testing everyone on 3 occasions you can be confident that when your son does return for face to face lessons, you will have the peace of mind that he is in a safe environment.

We would ask that parents/carers do not email covidalert@johnfisherschool.org with general enquiries. This email address is only for positive results.

Transport for London Update: Here is an update from Transport for London:

As all children and young people will now return to their classrooms for the spring term, as part of the Government's roadmap for leaving lockdown, we remain committed to doing our part to help them travel to school and college safely on our network.

School services from 8 March: we are planning to run bus services in a similar way to how they did during the autumn term. This means:

- *Extra services on some routes, with some adjustments to services that ran last year to reflect demand*
- *Up to half of buses on certain higher-frequency routes signed as 'school services' (generally between 07:30 and 09:00 and 14:30 and 16:30)*
- *A full service on our existing school day-only routes (routes generally numbered 600-699) These arrangements are planned to be in place until at least the end of the current term.*

We will confirm arrangements for after Easter in due course. School children travelling without adults should travel on the school services where possible, to help provide space for other customers on regular services.

Customers who are not school children but who need to travel at school travel times (including school staff) are strongly encouraged to use regular services. The full details of planned additional services and routes operating with buses signed as a 'school service' will be available shortly <https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/buses/bus-changes>. We are continually reviewing how our network is operating to ensure our approach is working and meeting demand as best as possible. Please check our dedicated webpage regularly for the latest information on school travel. Safe travel across the public transport network

We are continuing to take a range of measures to ensure that the public transport network is clean and safe – including our enhanced cleaning regime. We ask everyone travelling to continue following our safer travel guidance to protect themselves and others. It is compulsory for everyone aged 11 and over to wear a face covering over their nose and mouth throughout any public transport journey unless exempt. Bus windows should remain open to ensure a good supply of fresh air, even in cold weather. If a child aged 11 to 17 isn't wearing a face covering without an exemption or reasonable explanation, our officers may arrange for a warning letter to be sent to their parent or guardian. Further non-compliance could lead to the suspension of their concessionary travel.

Face Coverings: The latest guidance from the Department for Education: 'Schools coronavirus (COVID-19) operational guidance', February 2021 and 'Face coverings in Education', 1 March 2021 recommends that staff, students and in year 7 and above should wear face coverings when:

"moving around school premises such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained; and in classrooms and during school activities unless social distancing can be maintained".

The Guidance refers to Public Health England ("PHE") advice being to implement, and strengthen, a system of controls to provide more reassurance and to help decrease the disruption the virus causes to education by creating a safer environment for staff and students. PHE advise that schools must ensure face coverings are used in recommended circumstances as this is essential for public health reasons. Wearing a face covering is one of the recommended measures schools are being asked to take to get the risk of infection to an acceptable level to enable them to remain open. As part of our risk assessment, the school has determined that wearing face coverings is an important measure that helps to mitigate the risk of spreading Covid-19 amongst students and staff, particularly in light of concerns expressed over new, more contagious variants that may have more resilience to the current vaccines in circulation. The school remains concerned that if face coverings are not made compulsory and/or a high percentage of school choose not to wear them, it could undermine the risk assessment and raise the risk of infection to the school or others in the school community.

The school owes a duty of care to all members of the school community, including its duties under the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974. Compliance with duties set out within the 1974 Act provides a firm basis for satisfying those wider duties of care. Whilst it is appreciated the anxiety that some parents/carers have over the use of face coverings in school, we believe that the use of face coverings is a proportionate and necessary step, as part of the suite of measures the school are taking, to keep the school community safe.

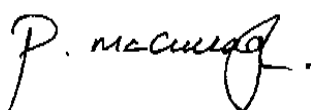
We would ask that you try to get your son into a routine next week that will support him in his transition back to school. This means, that he should get up at the time he will have to when he returns for face to face lessons, he should eat at the same times he will be eating at school and go to sleep at the time he will need to when school re-opens. We would ask that he checks his stationery and tries on his uniform. If he has any

items of uniform which he has outgrown, then we would kindly request that he brings these to school during one of his three rounds of testing, as we would certainly be able to make use of it.

Peripatetic Music Lessons: During the lateral flow testing process, there will be no virtual peripatetic music lessons during the school day. The last lessons will be taught today, 5th March, but all lessons will resume on Thursday 18th March. Missed lessons during this period, will either be made up in the summer term or reflected in the next invoice. Your son's peripatetic music teacher will clarify the details.

Please be mindful that our administrator's, Directors of Learning and senior staff are heavily involved in lateral flow testing up to and including Wednesday 17th March, therefore there could be a delay in responding to queries. These queries will obviously be prioritised in terms of importance and urgency.

Yours sincerely.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. E. McCullagh', with a stylized flourish at the end.

P E McCullagh

Headteacher
