



# THE JOHN FISHER SCHOOL

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

Peaks Hill  
Purley  
Surrey  
CR8 3YP

19th March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I cannot thank enough the efforts of the school community over the last week, as we finished the 3079 lateral flow tests for students in 9 days. In total, over 4000 tests have taken place this term for both students and staff, which is an extraordinary number. It was a military style operation, with such a large group of people involved including volunteers – here are some emails which have come in from two of them:

Email from a volunteer who was part of the school's lateral flow testing team: *'It's been a pleasure to be part of the 'super' team! I've learnt a lot and have thoroughly enjoyed my experience at The John Fisher School. Please thank everyone for their support. I was not expecting a gift! That's very kind of you.'*

Email from a volunteer who was part of the school's lateral flow testing team: *'What a lovely surprise, I certainly wasn't expecting a gift. I enjoyed my short time at John Fisher and everyone made me feel so welcome. Many thanks to the team. Kind Regards.'*

Thank you to the parents/carers for completing consent forms of which we had over a 90% return. The students arrived on time, listened to the instructions attentively during their tests and maintained a safe distance throughout. I do not underestimate the impact that this pandemic has had on our school community and it has been a wonderful feeling to have everyone back. I cannot thank the staff members enough and here is an email from one parent/carer who wanted to show her appreciation:

*'We also just wanted to email to say a massive THANK YOU to everyone in the PE department for their outstanding effort during this lockdown. We cannot sing their praises enough! Having only been at The John Fisher School for a short time we feel extremely lucky to be part of a school where the teachers have really gone above and beyond to keep the boys motivated and active during such difficult times. Their efforts have had such a positive effect on my son's mental health, wellbeing and confidence. Please let the other members of your team know how much all their effort and hard work have meant to us. We really can't thank you all enough. Thank you.'*

## Home Testing

Now the responsibility for testing is transferred to the students and their parents/carers themselves. Each student will be receiving another home testing kit next week, this time with seven tests in each box to enable students to keep testing during the Easter break. Please share the NHS instruction video link with your child which was issued in my letter last week. If your son has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days he should not begin testing until the 90 days has passed. Participation in home testing is voluntary, but is strongly encouraged. Test kits are not to be opened in school or on their way home. This kit contains solutions that may be harmful. We do not want this to get into the hands of young children.

### **Tuesday 23rd March: COVID-19 Day of Reflection**

A minute's silence and a national doorstep vigil will form part of a day of reflection to mark the anniversary of the UK's first COVID lockdown. Those who have died in the pandemic will be remembered. There will be a minute's silence at 12:00 noon, with people encouraged to light up their doorsteps on Tuesday night.

### **Wednesday 24th March: Parent/Carer Session**

You will have received an invitation to another one of our support sessions taking place for parents/carers next week. The theme for the session next Wednesday is 'online safety'. The 'Zoom' link will be shared with those who confirm their intention to attend. The session will start at 7pm.

### **The Return to School Announcement from Ofqual**

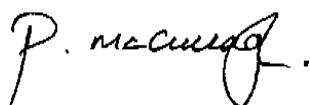
The return to school this week has been very good. Walking around the classrooms, students have been very attentive and focussed; it has felt so positive. The wearing of facemasks in classrooms has been followed impeccably in the rooms where students have not been able to be seated 2m apart. I have been particularly impressed with the attitudes of our Year 11 and Year 13 students. Interestingly, Ofqual stated in a webinar on Wednesday, that students will have advance sight of the external tasks and their mark schemes ahead of their Controlled Conditions Tests (CCTs) which I am sure many of the students will appreciate.

We will be issuing our examination groups with further information next week, as we want to support our students to do the best they possibly can. We want to support all of our Year 11 and Year 13 students to progress to the next stage in their journeys. Staff members will be meeting with Year 11 students from next week and we have our Year 11 Parents' Evening via 'Zoom' on Thursday. Ofqual also confirmed on Wednesday that the reason assessment materials would be openly available, is to avoid students cramming over the Easter holidays, which was not something they believe is healthy nor would want to encourage.

A prayer to finish:

***Glorious Patriarch Saint Joseph,  
whose power makes the impossible possible,  
come to my aid in these times of anguish and difficulty.  
Take under your protection the serious and troubling situations  
that I commend to you, that they may have a happy outcome.  
My beloved father, all my trust is in you.  
Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain,  
and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary,  
show me that your goodness is as great as your power. Amen.***

Yours sincerely,



P E McCullagh  
Headteacher