

25th September, 2020



Dear Parent/Carer

Coronavirus update 25

Welcome to a further update; I trust you and your family are in good health and spirits.

We have seen an additional two positive Coronavirus test results within our school family this week (one in Year 8, and one in Year 13). In neither case was the student concerned in school when they were deemed to be infectious, so in line with the advice we have received from Public Health, we have not asked any students (or groups of students) to self-isolate at this stage.

The number of cases nationally is continuing to rise, however, and I would urge all parents to reinforce the main “*hands-face-space*” message with your son or daughter this weekend:

- **wash your hands** frequently (at home as well as in school!);
- unless you are exempt from doing so, **wear a face covering** when moving around school; and
- as far as possible, **keep your distance** from other students (and staff).

Student entry into school

From this coming Monday (28th September), we’re making a slight change to the arrangements for when students arrive on site. Pre-16 students should continue to enter the site through Church Lane and gather on the small yard on their ‘short days’, but on other days they should use the smaller gate at the southern end of our site (opposite Sudley Juniors). They still need to be on the large yard five minutes before their first lesson starts.

School events

There are a number of events that normally take place at this time of year, such as Information Evenings for some year-groups (notably Year 10 as they start their GCSEs), and a Welcome Eucharist for Year 7s (actually one of my favourite events of the year!). Regrettably we can’t proceed with any of these events during the current restrictions; we are planning to run virtual versions instead, and will be in touch with the relevant parents in due course.

I can pass on some more details about our virtual Open Evening, however. We’ll be holding an online event on Monday 12th October, featuring a virtual tour (which is being worked on as I type) and some guidance on the Admissions process (which has been changed slightly following the closure of places of worship from March). We’ll send out more details shortly, but in the meantime please keep the date free if you have a boy currently in Year 6, and please pass the news on!

Any feedback?

As ever, we’d welcome any feedback on our new arrangements. How are they working for your family, and for your son or daughter? Since it now looks as though our new ‘staggered’ day will be in place for most (if not all) of the year, are there any adjustments we can make to improve things further? Do please e-mail scbrierley@stmargaretsacademy.com with any observations.

Yours faithfully

Stephen Brierley
Principal.