

6th November, 2020



Dear Parent/Carer

Coronavirus update 32

Welcome to the latest update from St Margaret's. I trust that you and your family are in good health and spirits despite the fact that we've now entered our second national 'lockdown'. There have been five positive cases within our school community this week (one member of staff and four students) – please do remember them and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

National Lockdown guidance

Schools have been given further national guidance about new measures resulting from the new lockdown. Some of it (eg guidance on face-coverings) reflects guidance that was already in place in Tier 3 areas, so there are no changes for us there; but some of it is new for us. The biggest change appears to be that extra-curricular activities can no longer take place, although we're still waiting for further clarification on some of the details about this. We're cautiously optimistic such activities will be able to restart in four weeks' time though.

BBC News

Avid viewers of the BBC 6 o'clock or 10 o'clock news will have recognised the school chosen as the venue for a report about the 'Lateral Flow' testing pilot which is coming to Liverpool this weekend – it was St Margaret's! We've had positive feedback from across the country – our Sixth Form students spoke very ably about the initiative, and our Year 10 students were evidently working very hard in Mr Elliott's English lesson. If you missed St Margaret's moment in the spotlight, you can catch up on it [here](#); the item begins at 20.16.

'Lateral flow' pilot

Some students may tell you that they saw me being escorted around school this afternoon by four army personnel in combat fatigues! I'd want to say very quickly that this isn't part of a new security policy for staff here; rather, the Army were wanting to find out whether our site could be used for the pilot testing programme that's rolling out in Liverpool at the moment. We don't know yet whether they'll be using St Margaret's as a venue – I'll let you know next week!

In the meantime, though, I would encourage all St Margaret's families to get tested; my understanding is that with this new pilot, you don't need to wait until you are symptomatic before you can access the programme. The more people are tested, the better we'll know how the virus is spreading, and the more we'll be able to control the spread and keep everyone safe.

Reminder

Thank you to everyone who's been keeping our school safe (and open to as many as possible) by following the advice on the Government website ([here](#)). Please could put out a quick reminder though? **If anyone in your household has symptoms, the whole household must self-isolate** and the person with symptoms must get a test. There have been some (isolated) cases of this guidance not being followed, and obviously that puts all of us, and your child's education, at risk.

With my best wishes for you and your family's good health this week,

Yours faithfully

Stephen Brierley
Principal.