



23rd February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Following the Prime Minister's announcement yesterday, the Department for Education has produced guidance for all schools outlining operational details for reopening from March 8th, and I thought it would be helpful to share with you our initial plans at this early stage. The official guidance can be accessed [here](#).

We are currently planning a phased return for all students from Monday 8th March, with priority being given to examination year groups and vulnerable students as outlined in the Government guidance issued 22.2.21. St Nicholas has already begun its on-site testing for those students and staff who have been attending school since January, and our planning is now focused on the 'up-scaling' of this process for all 1200 students at school.

This phased return to on-site provision will allow us to conduct the required asymptomatic testing programme outlined by the Government, with all 1200 students offered 3 tests between the 8th and 20th March. Testing will be facilitated by St Nicholas staff and external providers, with all personnel trained to the required Government standards.

We intend to provide details of the on-site start days for individual year groups along with testing arrangements as soon as practically possible once testing workforce availability is confirmed this week. We will also provide full guidance information for parents, carers and students as we appreciate that some students may well be anxious about the on-site testing provision and we will do all we can to support your children throughout this process. We will also provide information on 'home testing' arrangements announced by the Government as well as consent and privacy notices in regards to on-site testing. Current school day and lesson timings for the 2020-21 academic year will remain in place.

All elements of our school return plan will be outlined in our forthcoming communication which, as always, will include full and comprehensive guidance on continued and additional control measures when students return to school, including face coverings, school transport and year group 'bubble' arrangements.

We appreciate that you may have initial questions regarding your child's return to school. Please do share any concerns with us via admin@st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk - we will then provide a FAQs response as part of more detailed documentation provided to you later this week.



ST NICHOLAS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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Thank you for your patience as we make our final preparations for school reopening from 8th March and please encourage your children to continue with their remote learning over the forthcoming weeks.

Yours sincerely

Richard Woods
Headteacher

