

Dear Parents/Carers

Well done to the vast majority of our students who have started back to school positively. Walking around lessons on a daily basis, it is clear that lessons are calm and the overwhelming number of students are engaging with their learning.

Uniform and Behaviour

As staff, we are working hard to ensure that all students wear their uniforms smartly in school, including wearing their blazers and tucking in shirts when they enter the school and classrooms. We are incredibly pleased that most students are responding. We are working with individuals and their parents to rectify issues.

Students are only allowed to use their phones at break and lunchtimes, i.e. not in lessons or between lessons. Again, the response to this rule has been excellent.

Community

We have been contacted this week by members of the community who have expressed their concerns about anti-social behaviour from a very small number of students on their way home from school. It is part of our role to develop students into respectful citizens; there we will always endeavour to identify those students and take the necessary action.

Covid-19 Update

We understand that the information around COVID 19 is ever changing and it can be difficult to know what to do if you are in a situation where someone is symptomatic. We only have access to the same advice as you. We cannot advise on medical or health issues. We can only follow the latest advice available to us and point you in the direction of where to find the right information. The onus is on families to keep up to date on guidance from Public Health Wales. If in any doubt, please check the links at the end of this letter before sending your child to school.

We follow the Welsh Government's Track, Trace and Prevent procedure when dealing with suspected Covid-19 cases. Here is the School's process [Student TTP Flowchart](#)

There has been a great deal in the local news this week about partial school lockdowns. Two secondary schools in Newport have asked Year 7 students to isolate due to a positive test from one or more of their students.

It is only when a student **tests positive** that we would need to proceed to a partial lockdown for a year group. We may need to do this in the future. If this happens, information will be communicated officially by the school. **Please do not pay attention to other social media accounts or rumours.** At present, we have **not had** any child test **positive** for Covid. We have had students that have had symptoms and been sent home or have been contacted by someone who has tested positive, but so far, for all these cases, the individuals have eventually tested negative. Please continue to check your emails, follow our social media accounts and check the website for any updates.

A Covid-19 Reminder

Please stay at home if you or someone you live with has either:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- loss of smell or taste (anosmia)

Self-Isolation Guidance

- As soon as you experience any of the symptoms linked to COVID-19, however mild, you must self-isolate at home for 10 days from when your symptoms started.
- If you live with others and you are the first in the household to have symptoms of coronavirus, then you must stay at home and all other household members who remain well must stay at home for 14 days.
- The person with symptoms should not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital. If you feel you cannot cope with your symptoms at home, or your condition gets worse, then use the NHS 111 Wales online coronavirus service. If you do not have internet access, call NHS 111 Wales. For a medical emergency dial 999. You should arrange to have a test to see if you have COVID-19 as soon as possible. You can apply for a test using the following link:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

- The COVID-19 test is only effective for those who are experiencing coronavirus symptoms and needs to be taken in the first 5 days of having symptoms. It only checks if you have coronavirus right now and not if you have already had the virus.

- If your test is positive, you will be contacted by the local Contact Tracing team. You and your household contacts must continue to self-isolate.
- If you, or any of your household contacts receive a positive test result, we ask you to contact the school as soon as possible. Please contact us via covid19@stjuliansschool.co.uk, this will be checked up until 9pm and on weekends.
- A negative test does not conclusively rule out infection due to COVID-19, but means that it is more likely that your symptoms were due to a different infection, such as influenza or other bugs that cause coughs and colds. It is important that you do not pass on these infections either, and should continue to self-isolate until you are better.
- If a member of your household becomes unwell again, the family should self-isolate and the person who is unwell may need a further test.
- If you have had a negative test result but have never had any symptoms, there is no need to self-isolate.
- If you or a person in your household becomes unwell, you should self-isolate, and may need a further test.
- If you have spoken to or been identified as a contact of a case of COVID-19 and are within your 14 day self-isolation period, please continue to follow the advice given. Despite a negative test (with symptoms or without) you must continue to self-isolate until the 14 day incubation period is over.
- If you subsequently become unwell after the 14 day incubation period you should self-isolate again, and may need a further test. For further up to date information, please use the following links:

<https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/latest-information-on-novel-coronavirus-covid-19/>

<https://gov.wales/apply-coronavirus-covid-19-test#section-43088>

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-07/test-trace-protect-guidance-for-educationsettings-30-july-2020.pdf>

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-06/what-happens-when-you-get-a-test-forcoronavirus-covid-19.pdf>

Please rest assured that we are checking the advice on a regular basis and will always work with families to ensure the continued health and safety of everyone in our school community.

Please remember face coverings are mandatory from **Monday 14th September 2020** in indoor communal areas i.e. corridors, canteens and entrances.

And finally ...

It has been a busy and tiring week for our students getting back into school routines. Following a rest over the weekend, we hope they will be refreshed for Monday.

Have a good weekend.

Yours faithfully



Mr. D. Curtis
Headteacher/Pennaeth