

14th December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

6th January 2022 – School start times.

We will be welcoming the pupils back after the Christmas break on the 6th January 2022.

We want to continue to make our school environment as safe a place as possible for all staff and pupils and in turn this will have an impact on looking after our family and friends at home too.

All staff and pupils have been encouraged to do home testing throughout the Covid pandemic and this will need to continue. The expectation is that pupils need to test at least twice a week and especially on a Sunday or day prior to returning back to school.

In order to continue with this robust testing regime, we have been asked to follow the latest Department for Education guidance which is to test pupils on site upon their return after Christmas.

All pupils with consent, will be tested on Thursday 6th January 2022. This testing process will mean that pupils will have a **staggered start to the school day:**

- Children arriving on public transport (train and coach) will need to be in school at the normal time.
- Year 11 to start school at the normal time.
- Those NOT using public transport – Year 7 have a 09.30am start.
- Those NOT using public transport – Year 8 have a 10.15am start.
- Those NOT using public transport – Year 9 have an 11.00am start.
- Those NOT using public transport – Year 10 have an 11.30am start.

ALL PUPILS WITH CONSENT NEED TO GO STRAIGHT TO THE SPORTS HALL TO BE TESTED – PUPILS ARE NOT TO ENTER SCHOOL UNTIL THEY HAVE BEEN TESTED.

The testing is supervised by staff and volunteers on site who have all been NHS trained. The children administer the test to themselves and it has become apparent from those already testing on site that it is a simple and efficient process to follow. The new tests involve swabbing the nasal cavity only and not the throat.

It is crucial to us all that we are able to Covid test all of the children on the first day back and in order to allow us to do this we will need your consent. The majority of you will have already done this however, if your child is new to the school then consent will be required please. Please note that we will not test your child without your consent.

Please email: covidconsent@stm.srscmat.co.uk

Please give the name of your child, form group and that you agree to give your consent for your child to be tested.

We would like to thank you in anticipation of your cooperation in giving your consent. It is very important to us all to be able to keep safe and to look after each other whilst continuing to ensure consistent teaching.

Many thanks

