

18th December 2020



Dear Parents and Carers

Please find below our most recent COVID update.

Principal **Nick Martin**
BSc, MA, PGCE, NPQH

COVID Track and Trace Christmas Break Arrangements

Samuel Whitbread Academy will be continuing its test and trace process up to and including Christmas Eve, December 24th. This is to ensure any student, who may have had direct and prolonged contact with a COVID positive case, during the final week of term can self-isolate. As you can appreciate this is to support your family and our community over the festive period and to continue to reduce the spread of the infection.

The Academy site will be closed over the Christmas break; therefore, if your child tests positive between Saturday 19th December and Thursday 24th December, please email Alison Eaton on aeaton@bestacademies.org.uk. We require your child's full name; the date they started having symptoms; the date the positive test was received and their case number. This email address will be monitored daily.

Should your child be identified as a young person who needs to self-isolate you will be contacted via your registered Edulink email address. You will be sent a letter outlining the period of isolation, which recently changed from 14 days to 10 days. This is calculated from when the student first displayed symptoms, or if asymptomatic, from their positive test result date. We politely request that you check your emails daily.

Rapid Testing and Staggered Start to January

As you may be aware, the Government announced yesterday the roll out of rapid Covid testing in Schools in the new year. The intention is to identify asymptomatic students in schools to reduce the spread of infection and avoid further disruption for students and staff. They have also announced that **Year 11 and 13** will be returning to school on **Tuesday 5th January**, whereas **Years 9, 10 and 12** will be taught online for the first week and return to school on **Monday 11th January**. We will be providing vulnerable and key worker students an onsite provision from Tuesday 5th January and will publish further details in due course. This was only announced yesterday, so we are awaiting further information from the Government, which we hope will provide us with more detail. We will be in contact with all parents/carers prior to January 5th. In the meantime, we would like to provide reassurance that participation in any school-based testing, will be consensual, fully risk assessed and details shared with you prior to the start of testing.

We continue to urge you to follow Government guidelines as this region moves in to Tier 3 and be considerate of all those in our community, especially the vulnerable, over the Christmas period. If any member of your household develops symptoms, please isolate and book a test as soon as possible.

We thank you for your continued support and understanding and I wish you a safe and restful Christmas break. We look forward to seeing you in January 2021.

Kind regards
Nick Martin
Principal

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What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they are eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

Whilst awaiting a test result, all other household members must stay at home and not leave the house for up to **10 days**. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

The 10-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home. All household members must isolate whilst you await a test result.

Symptoms

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19

Do

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further Information

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

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