

SAINT NICHOLAS SCHOOL

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Interim Headmaster: Mr P Wilson BA(Hons) PGCE

31st August 2021

Dear Parents

Return To School September 2021

There has been much to celebrate this summer. Our Year 11 pupils achieved record GCSE grades, yet again. The proportion of Saint Nicholas pupils' results graded 5 and above was 91%, compared to just 63% nationally, and the proportion our results graded 7 (comparable to A grade) or above was 50%, compared with 30% nationally. These figures continue a five-year trend of academic improvement, and I would like to congratulate the pupils on their fantastic work ethic in such trying times and thank the teachers for their dedication during these extraordinary circumstances. We have also been celebrating a summer that has ushered in greater freedom. I look forward to greeting the children back to school in September, when we can all enjoy the benefits of the easing of restrictions. We can once again look forward to trips, and sporting fixtures and welcoming parents back on to the site for events throughout the year - and yes, we will even look to reopen the coffee shop once the term is underway.

We do need to remain vigilant, however. As Covid-19 cases continue to rise nationally, it is imperative that we minimise the disruption this may have on the education of our pupils and it is essential that we continue to keep everyone as safe as possible, whilst continuing to deliver high quality academic, pastoral and co-curricular opportunities for our young people. It is with this in mind that I write to you to confirm the arrangements for September as we start a new academic year.

I would recommend that parents read carefully our 'Return to School' brochure which contains further details, in addition to the information provided below. Also, our school risk assessment is available via the school website.

The main changes are as follows:

- Tracing Close Contacts and Isolation. Pupils are no longer required to self isolate if they are contacted by NHS Track and Trace as a close contact of a positive Covid-19 case, even if that contact is within their own household. Pupils will be advised to book a PCR test as soon as possible but they should continue to attend school until they receive their PCR results, unless they begin to display Covid-19 symptoms.
- Mixing and bubbles - Bubbles are no longer recommended for schools. However, to limit the possible disruption to pupils' education that can be caused by Covid-19 outbreaks, we will be using Consistent Key Stage Groups, thereby minimising the risk of transmission. These groups will apply to social times such as break and lunchtime and to before and after school provision. Key Stage Groups do not affect the normal running of lessons. Pupils in the senior school will no longer be limited to one area for all their lessons. We will return to normality with pupils moving between different teaching rooms as they follow their timetables. Timetables will be available on the portal from 3rd September.

- Masks - Whilst not a government directive, we kindly request that pupils wear masks in communal areas and when transitioning between lessons. This is to minimise the risk of Covid transmission and minimise any disruption that might be caused by illness of pupils or staff. Please ensure that pupils have a couple of clean masks they can wear at these times. Pupils will not be expected to wear masks in the classroom, but they may wear them if they choose to do so.
- Drop off and Collection - The drop off and collection times have altered slightly to reflect the new guidance. Please see the attached 'Return to School' Brochure for details.
- Uniform and School Bags – Pupils will need to be in full school uniform, apart from the days when they have PE or Games, in which case they should continue to come to school in their School tracksuit and trainers with the relevant kit underneath. This is due to the requirement to continue on-site lateral flow testing at the beginning of term. We will review the PE kit arrangement in the coming weeks. Our uniform suppliers, Perry, are now fully stocked. Please ensure that pupils wear the correct kit, as prescribed on the school website at <https://www.saintnicholasschool.net/school-life/uniform>
- Breakfast Club - will continue to run in Mountbatten Hall from 7.30am until, slightly later, at 8.30am, when all children will have access to their form rooms. If you wish your child to attend Breakfast Club, please book using the following link: <https://forms.office.com/r/9VtLC3M4nv>
- After School Clubs - The schedule of after school clubs will be published at the start of term and if you wish to sign up for a club, please use the parent portal. In addition to the clubs, there will also be the normal daily homework club/prep provision, which is charged at £6 per day. Pupils will be supervised in Key Stage Groups whilst they do their homework. If you would like to sign up for this provision, please use the parent portal.
- Bus Service - The bus service will continue to run as normal with all pupils required to wear masks for the duration of the journey.
- Holiday Form and Covid Declaration - We are required to obtain information regarding any travel or Covid cases during the summer holidays. Please complete the following form by 2nd September 2021: <https://forms.office.com/r/yLEuxcxL36>

Unfortunately, there are planned road closures on the Churchgate Street roundabout which will prevent access to Churchgate Street from 6th September for at least a week. We will send further information and guidance about this in due course.

We look forward to welcoming back our pupils and meeting the new members of our Saint Nicholas School community in September.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Wilson
Interim Headmaster