



Painsley Catholic College

Specialist Science College
Specialist Mathematics and Computing College
Principal: Mrs R Waugh BA (Hons). PGCE
CEO: Mr S G Bell, BA (Hons), PGCE, MA, NPQH

Station Road, Cheadle, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, ST10 1LH
Telephone: 01538 493777
Email: office@painsley.staffs.sch.uk
Web: www.painsley.co.uk

An important update on the return to school

Dear Parent/Carer

We are very much looking forward to welcoming all students back to school during the week beginning Monday 8th March. The government has produced detailed guidance on the return to school, which we will follow in its entirety. Therefore, we will be asking students to return over three days. We will confirm the exact day your son/daughter should return at the beginning of next week.

You should not send your child to school if you or anyone in your household is displaying symptoms of coronavirus. If this is the case, please inform school immediately.

Please note that, as from the date given for your son/daughter's return, it is mandatory for your child to attend school meaning that it is your legal duty as a parent to send your child.

In line with government guidance, students will be asked to take an asymptomatic rapid lateral flow test on their return to school. This involves all students aged 12 and above carrying out a self-swab (under the guidance of an adult) to test for asymptomatic coronavirus infection. Those students who are still aged 11 will have the test administered by an adult. We require the consent of all parents of children in Years 7-11. The vast majority of parents gave their consent back in December. If you have not yet done so, please log on to Parent Pay to confirm your willingness for your child to be tested (details were given in the letter dated 21st December that can be accessed by clicking here <https://www.painsley.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Covid-testing-letter-Dec-2020.pdf>). Sixth Form students and students 16 or over can self-consent due to their age.

I ask all parents to complete the consent form by Monday 1st March so we can prepare for the tests. If you are concerned about your child taking the test, please contact Mrs Hambleton (JHA@painsley.staffs.sch.uk) by Monday 1st March so we can discuss your concerns and, hopefully, reassure you. By conducting the tests, we will be able to ascertain that the likelihood of asymptomatic transmission is vastly reduced meaning that all staff and students are safer in school.

Individuals with a positive lateral flow test result will need to self-isolate in line with the [guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection](#). Those with a negative test result can continue to attend school unless they have individually been advised otherwise by NHS Test and Trace or Public Health professionals (for example as a close contact).

Your child will be tested in school 3 times in total. Once as per the date above and then on two more occasions spaced 3-5 days apart. A text with the result will be sent from NHS Test and Trace each time. Following this, the government is supplying LFD test kits for your child to self-swab and test themselves twice a week at home. Staff and pupils must report their result to NHS Test and Trace as soon as the test is completed either online or by telephone as per the instructions in the home test kit. Staff and pupils should also share their result, whether void, positive or negative, with the school to help with contact tracing. We will write again with details of this process nearer the time.



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As a reminder, we are implementing many measures in order to mitigate any risks of spreading coronavirus. We are confident that these measures will ensure that the environment is as safe as possible. For example, additional procedures include but are not limited to:

Ensuring students who travel on school transport follow comprehensive measures including the compulsory use of face coverings and allocated seats;

Students washing or sanitising their hands on arrival and departure;

Students being placed in Year group 'bubbles' in clearly designated areas;

Teachers moving to students in order to avoid crowded corridors between lessons;

Seating plans in all lessons resulting in us having a comprehensive database of contacts;

Students sitting in rows rather than in groups facing each other;

Windows and doors being left open to improve ventilation;

Separate entrances and exits with staggered times for different bubbles;

Separate sittings for lunch;

Regular and enhanced cleaning programme throughout the day – particularly in high-risk areas such as toilets;

Additional handwashing equipment and sanitiser dispensers across the school for regular use throughout the day;

Additional behaviour policies to ensure students understand their role in the school environment;

Clear Academy-wide strategies in the event of a local outbreak;

In line with government guidance, students will need to wear face coverings when indoors **including in classrooms and corridors**. Students should avoid touching their faces as this increases transmission rates.

If a student has a particular health issue, an individual risk assessment will be conducted with parents in order to assess whether a face covering is necessary at additional times.

Staff will also wear face coverings as they walk in corridors and in classrooms unless they are exempt.



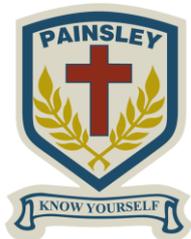
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Government guidance on face coverings

A face covering should:

- cover your nose and mouth while allowing you to breathe comfortably
- fit comfortably but securely against the side of the face
- be secured to the head with ties or ear loops
- be made of a material that you find to be comfortable and breathable, such as cotton
- ideally include at least two layers of fabric (the World Health Organisation recommends three depending on the fabric used)
- unless disposable, it should be able to be washed with other items of laundry according to fabric washing instructions and dried without causing the face covering to be damaged

When wearing a face covering you should:

- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before putting a face covering on
- avoid wearing on your neck or forehead
- avoid touching the part of the face covering in contact with your mouth and nose, as it could be contaminated with the virus
- change the face covering if it becomes damp or if you've touched it
- avoid taking it off and putting it back on a lot in quick succession (for example, when leaving and entering shops on a high street)

When removing a face covering:

- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before removing
- only handle the straps, ties or clips
- do not give it to someone else to use
- if single-use, dispose of it carefully in a residual waste bin and do not recycle
- if reusable, wash it in line with manufacturer's instructions at the highest temperature appropriate for the fabric
- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser once removed



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This will not apply in situations where a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, for example, PE lessons. Face coverings do not need to be worn by pupils or students when outdoors on the premises where social distancing can be maintained. The wearing of face coverings in classrooms is being introduced for a limited time until Easter. It will be kept under review and our guidance will be updated at that point.

For the latest guidance for parents, please visit [gov.uk/backtoschool](https://www.gov.uk/backtoschool)

Please note that I will write to parents of Years 11 and 13 as soon as I have more information regarding the GCSEs/A Levels, which is expected this week.

During these difficult times, we take hope from the last words of Jesus: "And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time." Matthew 28:20.

We are very confident that our school environment is safe and we cannot wait to see the students and staff altogether again!

God bless

Mrs Waugh

Principal



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