



# SIR THOMAS FREMANTLE SCHOOL

A CO-EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS AGED 11-19

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4<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Re: Return to School

As promised in my last communication, I send you another. This letter will need to be shared with your child as it relates to their safe return to school and their conduct during this time.

It is important to remind all students of the rules and safety measures that were in place prior to the Christmas break. Our measures will protect all members of the school community and allow students to return in full.

Our safety measures include:

- A one-way system
- Using the correct stairs to ascend or descend
- Hand basins installed at the front of the school where hand washing will be completed before entering the building
- We will not be offering hot food at break or lunch for students unless they are entitled to free school meals, so most students will need to bring a packed lunch and snacks
- Each year group will continue to use their designated areas at break and lunchtime
- Government recommendation of face coverings in class
- Our existing approach that face coverings should be worn in communal areas and when transitioning between lessons, unless exempt

I have created a separate document included with this email explaining the one-way system and some of the other modifications we have made. Please spend some time with your child going through this document prior to their scheduled return. We will share this with all students on their return also, but if they have an understanding beforehand, it will be helpful for all.

Furthermore, there are some changes to how lessons will be delivered. For example, students will not be using any wind instruments in music, or sharing equipment in their science lessons. Students may notice teachers teaching from a safe distance or from the teacher's desk more often. We will also be reducing the number of visitors to the school site during the day and after school. This will mean that parents and carers arriving at reception without a prior agreement will not be able to see staff. We would hope that most communication can take place via the telephone in the first instance. If a meeting is necessary, it is likely to take place via a video meeting platform. This will help us manage all visitors to the school site.



It is so important that we all follow the measures that STFS has put in place. We are determined to keep all students in school and learning on site. Whilst we cannot guarantee that there will be no outbreaks, following the measures we have in place will help reduce the risk of transmission. Every member of the school community has a part to play in protecting staff and students from COVID-19. If your child or a member of your household develops symptoms, it is vitally important that parents keep their children at home and have them tested even if they only have very mild symptoms of the virus (cough, temperature, loss of sense of taste/smell or an upset stomach). Your child should stay at home until they know the results of the test. If the test is positive, the school should be informed as soon as possible and the student should stay at home for at least 10 days. Even if the test is negative, students should only attend school if they are feeling well. It is equally important that families observe the latest self-isolation rules if someone in their household becomes infected or if a person has been in close contact with an infected person.

The following link has details regarding symptoms and actions that should be taken if you suspect your child has COVID-19. The second link explains the self-isolation timescales:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/#symptoms>

[How long to self-isolate - Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/#symptoms)

In our efforts to help protect all members of the school community, we would urge all students to bring hand sanitiser and tissues to school. We will have supplies of these, but it is less of a risk if students are using their own supplies. Students will be reminded and encouraged regularly to wash their hands and ensure they maintain high levels of hygiene throughout the day. The Government have also recommended face coverings in classrooms. Schools continue to have amendments specifically related to COVID-19 in their Behaviour Policy. For example, our amendment reflects our one-way system and students supporting the safe movement around school. If any student deliberately breaks any of the modified rules that are in place to protect all, they will face serious sanctions.

It is important to note that should there be high numbers of staff having to isolate at any one time, we may need to send year groups home to work remotely until we have sufficient staff back onsite. This is something I hope we can avoid, but I wanted to remind families that this is a possibility.

Looking forward to schooling starting again, this week is also a good opportunity to restock those pencil cases. Again, in order to reduce transmission risks, school or students will not be able to loan pens or pencils to their peers. Therefore, it is an absolute must that all students have sufficient reserves of pens should theirs run out of ink. In addition to the typical items on the equipment list, we are also recommending that students add items such as a hand sanitiser, tissues, a small stapler, a small pair of scissors, small dictionary for English and MFL lessons, and a glue stick. These are all items that traditionally get passed around by teachers and students. A key measure in trying to protect everyone is ensuring that all students are properly equipped to reduce contact. I appreciate that this can be quite an expensive time, but pound shops or supermarkets are often the cheapest places to purchase these items. A complete list of equipment can be seen below.



# Equipment

- ☐ Pencil Case
- ☐ Pens (x 2 minimum)
- ☐ Pencils (x 2 minimum)
- ☐ Ruler
- ☐ Rubber
- ☐ Pencil Sharpener
- ☐ Highlighters
- ☐ Calculator- Speak with your Maths teacher about which one
- ☐ Reading Book
- ☐ HW Planner
- ☐ English Dictionary
- ☐ MFL Language Dictionary-
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Glue Stick
- ☐ Small Stapler
- ☐ Colouring Pencils/Pens
- ☐ Protractor
- ☐ Compass
- ☐ Hand Sanitiser
- ☐ Tissues
- ☐ PE Kit- including appropriate footwear.



**HAVE PRIDE IN YOUR LEARNING**

Students will need to return to school in full school uniform. Our students have always looked incredibly smart inside and outside of school and this is something that will continue. We appreciate that children may have had a growth spurt during lockdown so if you foresee any uniform issues, please discuss this with your child's form tutor; no sanctions as such will be given for incorrect uniform, but we would encourage parents to source some as soon as possible. Children will be

You may find that your child is anxious about returning to school. The following websites may help alleviate some of these concerns. You can also talk to your form tutor.

Childline: <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/school-college-and-work/school-college/school/>

Place2Be: <https://www.place2be.org.uk/our-services/services-for-schools/mental-health-resources-for-schools/return-to-school-resources/>

NSPCC <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/away-from-home/at-school/#coronavirus>

Trauma Informed Schools UK [https://6282.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/Recognising\\_and\\_responding\\_to\\_Anxiety-4+Trauma+Informed+Schools+UK.pdf](https://6282.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/Recognising_and_responding_to_Anxiety-4+Trauma+Informed+Schools+UK.pdf)



Finally, I just wanted to thank you for your support and kindness over this challenging time.

Yours faithfully,

Neale Pledger  
**Headteacher**

