



Ursuline
High School
WIMBLEDON

Voluntary Aided 11-18 Roman Catholic School for Girls
Headteacher: Ms Julia Waters BSc (Hons) MA

September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Ahead of the start of term, we wish to share a summary of the COVID-19 guidelines for educational settings.

Mixing and 'bubbles'

From the start of the Autumn term, the school will no longer operate in year group bubbles. This means that students will share various communal areas, toilets and dining halls, in line with the 'normal' running of the school in pre-pandemic times.

Face coverings

Face coverings are no longer advised/compulsory for pupils, staff and visitors in classrooms or in communal areas. School policy does allow for face coverings to be worn voluntarily by anyone anywhere in school if they so wish. All students, staff and visitors are expected to follow the regulations concerning face coverings on public transport (e.g TfL services) to and from school.

Twice-Weekly home testing

Your daughter will be provided with a box of home test lateral-flow tests and **should be testing twice a week** (we recommend Sunday and Wednesday evenings).

- If the result is negative, then no action is required, and your daughter can continue to attend school as normal.
- If the test is positive, then you must take your daughter for a PCR test immediately. Your daughter must self-isolate until the result of this PCR test has been returned.

Results of any lateral-flow or PCR tests (regardless of result) must be shared with the school using the link on the parents page on the school website or by clicking on the link below.

<https://www.ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk/parents/home-swab/>

Current guidelines are asking all secondary aged students to test twice a week until the end of September, when the guidance will be updated.

Please note that if a student receives a positive PCR test result, the NHS will now undertake the 'track and trace' process directly. Close contacts will no-longer be identified/communicated with by school.

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months

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- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

On-Site testing at the start of Autumn Term

All students will undertake two lateral-flow tests within their first five days of returning to/starting school in September. Details of these tests have been previously communicated to all parents.

Year Group	Test 1	Test 2	First day of school
Year 7	Fri 03 rd September	Wed 8 th September	Fri 03 rd September
Year 8	Thu 02 nd September*	Tue 07 th September	Mon 6 th September
Year 9	Mon 06 th September	Thu 09 th September	Mon 6 th September
Year 10	Mon 06 th September	Thu 09 th September	Mon 6 th September
Year 11	Fri 03 rd September	Wed 8 th September	Fri 03 rd September
Year 12	Thu 02 nd September*	Mon 6 th September	Fri 03 rd September
Year 13	Thu 02 nd September*	Tue 07 th September	Fri 03 rd September

*Please note that students coming in on Thursday 02nd September will come into school for their test and return home.

Control measures

Day-to-day 'normality' may be returning to school life, but it is critical to the ongoing function of the school that everyone continues to follow strict hygiene procedures. Please talk through the following reminders with your daughter.

- Hand sanitiser is available in all teaching rooms and should be used by students when they enter and leave.
- Any facemasks used for travel into school should be kept in a sealed plastic bag during the day.
- Continue to follow the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach, especially as winter approaches and colds/other diseases may spread.

Yours sincerely



Tom Glavina
Acting Assistant Head Teacher