



# De La Salle School

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31<sup>st</sup> December, 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

## Return to School Update / MAST Testing

I hope you and your family have had a restful break so far. As you will be aware, since my letter at the end of last term, the government have changed their expectations of schools, particularly around the start of the Spring term. Though we are still awaiting further guidance on certain aspects, I thought it would be useful to share our new plans. In drawing up these plans our priorities have been:

- Staff and student safety.
- Maintaining effective education for all students, especially our Year 11 students facing exams this year.
- Maintaining contact with our most vulnerable students
- Providing education for children of key workers.

Below I have highlighted our plans, which I have split into two parts i) the staggered return to school for the Spring Term and ii) our plans for testing of staff and students.

### Part 1 – Staggered return to school

Taking into account the latest Government advice our plans have now changed to the following:

Date	In School	Virtual Lessons
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> January	Staff only	No online lessons
Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> January to Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> January	Staff Vulnerable students Children of Key workers	We hope to be able to provide online lessons following the school timetable for all year groups (though priority will be given to Year 11)
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> To Fri 15 <sup>th</sup>	Staff Vulnerable students Children of key workers All Year 11 students	Online lessons for Year 7-10
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> onwards	All staff and students in school	

### Key information

- **Uniform** - All students attending school should do so in full uniform.
- **Vulnerable students** – we will already have contacted you to invite you into school
- **Children of key workers** are welcome in but must be pre-booked (to access this you must book in via email to [peetj@delasalleschool.org.uk](mailto:peetj@delasalleschool.org.uk) by 12:00pm on Monday 4th January with

*You can perform miracles by touching the hearts of those entrusted to your care.*

details of how you qualify as a key worker) – these students will access the online lessons that other students are accessing.

- A **lunch** and **break** service will be available for students in school (though this may be a more limited offer in the first two weeks).
- We are awaiting confirmation regarding arrangements for students eligible for **Free School Meals** whilst they are studying from home.
- **Access to IT facilities:** if your child faces issues accessing online learning eg no computer or internet, then please contact the school and we will look to support you.

## Part 2 - Mass Asymptomatic Serial Testing (MAST)

Schools have been asked to facilitate mast testing of staff and students with the aim that:

- a) All staff and students are tested before returning to school
- b) Ongoing weekly testing of staff
- c) Daily (serial) testing of any staff or students who are close contacts of a positive Coronavirus case (this is to allow them to return to school rather than have to self-isolate)

I have limited the information below to an outline of our planned approach to this, I am sure you will have many other questions and so I have also attached a separate document to address these questions.

**Firstly, it is important to point out that testing is voluntary for staff and students, and will only be carried out if consent is given.**

Secondly, staff and students are welcome and encouraged to use the existing regional testing centres prior to returning to school. This will ease the burden on the amount of testing we have to carry out in school. Any students having tests at one of the Local Authority test sites (within 5 days of returning to school) will not need to have a test in school.

Below is our plan to deliver the required MAST testing:

<b>Date</b>	<b>In School</b>	<b>Test Activity</b>
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> January	Staff only	Staff training
Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> January to Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> January	Staff Vulnerable students Children of Key workers	Testing to be offered to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- all staff</li> <li>- Vulnerable students</li> <li>- Children of key workers</li> <li>- If possible, we will look to start offering testing to Year 11 who are not able to access testing elsewhere ahead of their return on 11<sup>th</sup></li> </ul>
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> To Fri 15 <sup>th</sup>	Staff Vulnerable students Children of key workers All Year 11 students	Testing offered to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All staff (as part of their weekly testing)</li> <li>- Year 11 who have not already been tested</li> <li>- Any students identified as close contacts of any positive cases</li> <li>- Other year groups invited in if they have not been able to access testing elsewhere</li> </ul>
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> onwards	All staff and students in school	Testing offered to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All staff (as part of their weekly testing)</li> <li>- Any students identified as a close contact of a positive case.</li> <li>- Any students who have not been able to access tests earlier or elsewhere.</li> </ul>

## **Finally**

Obviously, there is a lot of information here and for now you just need to ensure you are aware of the plans for the staggered return. I will be back in touch with parents next week with further information on how to register for testing. Until then, can I wish you and your families a happy and prosperous new year.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Rannard', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andrew Rannard  
**Headteacher**