



De La Salle
School

Mill Brow, Eccleston, St. Helens,
Merseyside WA10 4QH

Telephone: 01744 20511
Email: delasalle@delasalleschool.org.uk

Headteacher: Mr. A. Rannard BA (Hons) NPQH

18th December 2020

Dear Parent /Carer,

Staggered Return in January / Mass Testing

Firstly, I apologise for the late notice of this information but hope you will understand that these big announcements from the government and the guidance have come to us very late and, in some cases, are still yet to be shared with us. I have tried to highlight the key information below.

Secondly, I would say that we are a school and not a medical facility, nor do we have any spare staffing and experience to deliver what the government is asking. However, we recognise the benefits that the testing will bring students and staff, meaning they would not have to self-isolate. So over the next few days I will be working with a core team at the school to set up and plan so that we can have this provision in place.

In order to establish the structures and systems, facilitate training and all the many things that need to be in place, the government has allowed schools some additional time and a staggered start to the return to school in January. Below is the information on how this will look for students at De La Salle.

First Week Back (4th to 8th January)

Monday 4th January - INSET DAY: no students attend (this is an additional INSET day that the government has allocated to schools to facilitate planning and training for testing).

Tuesday 5th to Friday 8th January

- School open for all **Year 11** students – students will have normal lessons
- School open for **vulnerable students** (the school will have contacted you if your child is in this category) – these students will access the online lessons that other students are accessing.
- School open for **children of key workers** (to access this you must book in via email to peetj@delasalleschool.org.uk by 12:00pm on Monday 4th January) – these students will access the online lessons that other students are accessing.
- Buses will operate as normal during this week.
- All others students (Yrs 7-10) will receive online lessons following their timetable via TEAMS
- It is our hope that we will be able to offer all students a test during this week, at the moment I don't know how, but I will let you know when I do!

Monday 11th January

- All students return to school

Mass Testing

- The government have asked schools to carry out mass testing of all students during the first week back in January (4th to the 8th January). The initial guidance seems to suggest students will need to be tested twice in that week.
- Then from 11th January for schools to test staff weekly.
- From 11th January schools to test all staff and students who are close contacts of a positive case on a daily basis.

Access to IT Facilities

If your child is required to work from home that week and does not have access to IT equipment that would allow him/her to access lessons on TEAMS then please contact the school by the main De La Salle email and we will look to provide support for this.

I realise the plans for the first week back may be disruptive for some parents and are not ideal but they really are necessary for us to build in the infrastructure needed to create what is effectively a large scale mobile testing centre onsite.

So thank you for your understanding and I will be back in touch once I have more useful information to share with you or if the government decide to change anything over Christmas.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Rannard
Headteacher