

23rd March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Easter Holiday 2021

I would like to thank our students, families and staff for supporting the return to school. Both staff and students have been pleased to be back, and we have seen high levels of student attendance maintained over the past few weeks. The return to school has been busy, with lateral flow testing, induction sessions on expectations and wellbeing for all year groups, full lessons along with musical and sports extra-curricular activities.

Congratulations to students in all year groups, who have been recognised by the school community for going 'Above and Beyond' this half term. We are very proud that, despite the challenging circumstances and the transition back to the school site, large numbers of students have engaged positively with online school work, extra-curricular opportunities and their face to face lessons back in school.

In continued recognition of the hard work from students, staff at SPWT have awarded **2666 positive postcards** so far this academic year and recognised **28 students as Student of the Week** for going above and beyond expectations during this half term. Students across all cohorts have been recognised for achieving 'Above and Beyond' expectations with some students receiving prestigious, 'Year Team Leader', 'Faculty' and 'Director of Learning' Awards. We hope these rewards will provide opportunities for positive conversations with your child regarding their experience of school this term.

Please note the following dates for the end of term and return to school:

End of Term:

Thursday 25th March, usual end time for each Year Group.

Return to School:

Monday 12th April, at the usual start time for each Year Group.

All students are expected to attend in full school uniform or the sixth form dress code. Students must have their school blazer with them at all times. As the weather becomes warmer, we will no longer be allowing use of non-school uniform jumpers for the summer term. Please note that we will be returning to full school uniform from September 2021, so please do plan ahead when purchasing any new uniform items for school.

Students must have their lanyards and a face mask to wear in communal areas and lessons. Please encourage your child to dress appropriately for the weather. As part of the current model, students do spend considerable time outdoors throughout the day, including in light rain.

Ahead of the return to school, please can I ask you, with your child, to revisit the key points from the Parent Guidance Document (<https://www.spwt.net/secondary/parent-information>) over the holiday, to ensure that your child can continue to attend school and can operate in a safe manner on return to school.

COVID-19 Home Testing Guidance for Parents

Testing in schools has contributed hugely to reducing transmission of the virus.

Home test kits will be provided to all students who have already participated in on-site testing.

St Paul's Way Trust School, 125 St Paul's Way, London E3 4FT - Web: www.spwt.net - Telephone: 020 7987 1883 - Email: admin@spwt.net

Collection of home test kits will also be arranged for families who have requested one via the recent survey. We will be arranging a workshop for parents to receive a demonstration of how a test is conducted, ahead of collection. Each student will be given a pack of 6 tests allowing for 2 tests to be conducted each week, starting from this week and including the two weeks of the Easter Holiday, before returning for the summer term. Full instructions are provided with the test kits and these must be read and followed carefully.

Further guidance from the DfE on conducting tests at home can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?app=desktop&list=PLvaBZskxS7tzQYIVg7lwH5uxAD9UrSzGJ>

All positive results from rapid tests undertaken at home will need to be confirmed with a standard PCR test. This is because these tests are not conducted in a controlled environment and will not have trained staff on hand. Following a positive LFD test at home, a confirmatory PCR test should be booked online or by calling 119. Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the student and their close contacts should self-isolate. If the PCR test is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test (at home only) and the student can return to school.

The DfE has asked us to convey three key messages as we move to home-testing:

1. Testing twice a week should be a routine, and ideally become embedded in family life – we would suggest to families that this is built into the routine for example, on a **Sunday evening** and **Tuesday evening**.
2. A key message is that people should not stop testing over Easter.
3. It is particularly important to test before staff and secondary students come back to school, ideally the evening before.

Our risk assessments will be ongoing and this guidance may be updated; parents will be kept informed of any updates.

Please see below for further additional information from year teams and visit our website via the link for key notices. <https://www.spwt.net/viewer/309>

Please do not hesitate to contact your child's Year Team Leader or the school's General Office should you require further information. Parent feedback is valued by the school, and we request that any feedback is sent via the school email admin@spwt.net

In the meantime, please look out for our SPWT Spring 2 Newsletter which will be soon available on our website, showcasing good news stories from across the school.

Thank you and best wishes,



Firdusi Uddin
Associate Headteacher

Year Group Information

Year 12 - Ms Christou & Ms Khanam

It has been a pleasure to welcome back the Year 12 students following the latest lockdown and bubble closure that occurred in December. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents/carers for their support during these challenging months. Students have returned with maturity and a real drive to succeed, which is fantastic to see.

As you are aware, there has been a slight change in the sixth form timetable since school reopened whereby sixth form students are now able to go home to complete independent study if they have a study period for their last lesson of the day, period 5 and 6. Please support your children by encouraging them to use this time productively and by checking their homework diary to establish what work needs to be completed.

Following the half term, there will be a drive on higher education plans during tutor time and extracurricular activities. This will include information on different higher education avenues, courses, virtual open days, an introduction to UCAS and scaffold writing of personal statements. We will be asking for your support with helping your child make informed post-18 choices.

Year 13 - Ms Coles & Ms Khanam

Year 13 students continue with fortitude and optimism towards the end of their time at St Paul's Way Trust Sixth Form. Since Christmas, all students have submitted their university applications and have participated with enthusiasm in live lessons throughout the lockdown. The Year Team would like to take this opportunity to thank Year 13 parents for supporting their child this term, your encouragement and positivity plays a huge role in their success. Over the coming weeks we will be supporting students with the student finance applications and preparing them for their next steps. Assessment and end of arrangements will be communicated in a separate letter in the coming weeks.

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