

8th April 2022

Dear parents/carers,

Re: Covid measures update, end of Term 4 and start of Term 5

As we approach the end of this half term (Term 4) I thought it would be good to update you on a few things.

Firstly, I wanted to thank you and your children once again for your understanding and resilience during recent disruptions due to Covid. I also want to thank you all more generally for your ongoing support for the school over the past term as we work to ensure we offer your children the best possible quality of education.

Covid update

As of Friday 1 April, the guidance around Covid testing and self-isolation has changed. We no longer have access to tests kits as a school, and they are no longer free to the public. Guidance around what to do if you feel unwell and when and how long to self-isolate has also changed. This can be summarised as follows:

Students:

If a student feels unwell and has a high temperature, they should stay at home. If they do carry out a home test and receive a positive result for Covid, they are advised to isolate for 3 days and when they feel better, they can return to school. If a student has not taken a test, they can return when they feel well enough and no longer have a temperature. Unless a child is unwell, attendance at school is mandatory.

Positive tests:

If a student does receive a positive Covid test result at home we ask that you let the school know when reporting the absence.

Adults:

If an adult has symptoms of Covid including a high temperature or feels unwell, they should try to stay at home and avoid contact with people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature. If they do carry out a home test and receive a positive result for Covid, they are advised to isolate for 5 days and when they feel better after that point they can return to school.

Remote learning:

If a student is self-isolating at home but well enough to work, we continue to offer emergency work on the website and through Class Charts as well as live provision via Teams where possible. Further details can be accessed by navigating here: <https://www.johnogauntschool.co.uk/covid-19/>

We will continue with a range of hygiene measures in school, such as regular cleaning and hand sanitising, to help reduce transmission of viruses and will of course keep you updated should the guidance change at any point.

End of Term 4

The last day of term is Friday 8th April 2022. We have a charity day planned for this day and it is therefore the rearranged non-uniform day originally scheduled for 18th March. During period 5, all students will be able to participate in the charity fayre. School will finish at the usual time of 3.10pm. The school telephone lines will be closed for the Easter holidays and, although the site itself will be open at times due to the Year 11 revision sessions being offered, Reception will not be manned. Therefore, please email the office if you have any queries and someone will respond as soon as they can when we return.

Start of Term 5

School resumes at 8.45am on Monday 25th April. Students should arrive punctually, in full and correct school uniform, ready to learn and do their best. The start of the new half term is going to be a busy one and is an important one educationally, especially for students in Year 11 and Year 10 who will be sitting exams.

As I am sure you'll appreciate, after a break it is important for the school to reset the tone for uniform, behaviour and conduct and therefore I would like to draw your attention to the following:

Uniform:

John O'Gaunt is a uniform school. We believe that students should be dressed smartly and professionally at all times. We appreciate that during the academic year wear and tear has an impact on some items of uniform and this is why we have our yellow/red 'uniform passes'. Where uniform problems arise, parents should **write a** note to explain the situation and when it will be resolved, so that we can issue your child with a uniform pass accordingly. However, the use of these should always be the exception and not the rule. Certainly, after a holiday like Easter, we see no reason why *every* child should not return in full, correct uniform. Please check our uniform policy if you are unsure about what is and is not acceptable. Children who fail to arrive in the correct uniform or fail to wear it correctly in the day will face sanctions and may be isolated from the community until the issue is resolved. Please do not allow your child to be put in this difficult position. Our uniform policy can be found here: <https://www.johnogauntschool.co.uk/parents/uniform/>

Student conduct:

The vast majority of students at JOG conduct themselves impeccably in lessons and around school. However, it is important that our students are reminded of our high expectations regularly to ensure that all of them can enjoy the benefits of a calm, purposeful, safe and effective school. As you would expect, we will be focussing on this through tutor time and assemblies in school during the term, with a particular emphasis on kindness and respect. We cannot achieve this alone however, and cooperation in promoting high expectations and showing your support for the school is vital. I would therefore respectfully request that you take a little time to discuss these things before we return. I thank you in advance for helping the school in this way.

Muster points and student toilets:

To help us establish expectations at the start of the new term, for at least the first week, students will be required to report to muster points from 8.40am, **before** they go to their tutor bases. Unless the weather is unsuitable, muster points will be in the tennis courts. Students will be told of the indoor and outdoor areas they need to report to during tutor time today and reminded on the morning of our return. I have included a copy of where these are at the end of this letter. Mustering will enable us to have oversight of all our students, check their uniform and set the tone for the forthcoming weeks.

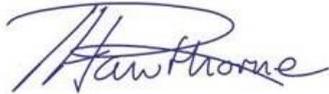
We will also be trialling locking most student toilets during lesson time after Easter, following some unfortunate incidents of vandalism. Toilets will be open at break and lunchtimes and before and after school as well. Students have plenty of opportunities at these times to use the facilities but students with medical needs will still be allowed to use a different toilet. In rare exceptional circumstances where a student may need to use a facility during lesson time, they should report to Student Reception in the first instance. I am aware that measures like this, caused by a few but impacting all are contentious, but we feel this is an approach that will again help us set the right tone for all our students. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Work scrutiny:

Finally, we're constantly striving to improve the quality of education we offer. As part of our cycle of self-evaluation, we conduct quality assurance exercises, one of which is looking at student work. We plan to hold one of these during a staff development session on Monday 25th April drawing from a random sample of student books/folders. Therefore, we'd really appreciate it if you could ask your child to ensure they have their books with them that day, in case we need to see them.

In the meantime, I hope that you and your family enjoy a restful and pleasant Easter break. Do contact the school if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,



Mr R Hawthorne
Head of School

AM Registration muster points from Monday 25th April

Year group	Muster area outdoors	Muster area indoors
7	Court 2	Main Hall
8	Court 2	Main Hall
9	Court 1	Gym
10	Court 1	Gym
11	Court 1	Gym

- Students should report to their correct muster area between 8.40-8.45am
- Muster points will be outside **unless** it is raining - if this is the case students should go instead to their indoor muster area
- Students must line up, in alphabetical order and be silent
- Students should be in full, correct uniform and be wearing this correctly
- Once staff are satisfied with uniform and conduct, students will be sent to their tutor base/assembly as appropriate
- If the fire alarm sounds, students go to their usual muster points by the ATP and not these ones

