



Dear Parent and Carers,

We are really looking forward to welcoming all students back to school on **Tuesday 20th April** (along with a few Post-16 on Monday, who start their mock exams).

I hope you are all feeling rested and have been able to enjoy the weather over this holiday period. We have been really impressed with the large number of Post-16 and Year 11 students that have been attending school for the daily revision classes over the last two weeks; it has been wonderful to see how motivated they still remain after the last challenging year.

Many of you will have noticed our new signage that is now in place at the front of school and across the school site. I am a great believer in 'first impressions' and over the last couple of years we have worked hard to improve the entrance into our school. With new signage, new fencing, repaired automatic gates and a new reception area, this really does provide a much improved first impression. Over the next month or so we will be sharing some really exciting news about a new capital build project within the school.

Face coverings in schools and colleges to remain in place

On Tuesday 6th April, the Government confirmed that [face coverings](#) should continue to be worn in secondary schools and college classrooms as a precautionary measure when students return after the Easter break.

This cautious approach will help limit the risk of transmission and enable continued monitoring of the effect of school and college returns, as twice weekly testing is further embedded in students' routines.

It is expected that face coverings will no longer be required to be worn in classrooms, or by students in other communal areas, at Step 3 of the roadmap, which will be no earlier than Monday 17th May. At that point the next stage of easements will be confirmed following a review of the latest data on infection and vaccination rates. It will also allow time for the vaccination programme to reach everyone in priority groups one to nine with their first dose before any change is committed.

The government has said that all changes will be confirmed with one week's notice and all other safety measures should remain in place, including regular asymptomatic testing, year group bubbles, increased hygiene at the start and end of each lesson, increased ventilation and where possible, social distancing.

Whilst I know some of you will be disappointed that students will still be required to wear face coverings in classrooms, it is important that we continue to follow the guidance. The following guidance has been updated to align with this announcement:



[guidance for providers of holiday or after-school clubs and other out-of-school settings for children](#)

[guidance for parents and carers of children attending out-of-school settings](#)

[what parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)

Face Covering for Year 11 and Post-16 exams

When students are actually sitting their mock exams over the next few weeks, we will be giving the option to students not to wear their face masks. This decision has been made for the following reasons:

- We want to provide the very best opportunity for our students to do as well as they can in their exams and we know some students really struggle wearing a mask for long periods of time.
- In the exam halls, students will be socially distanced at all times.
- There will be increased ventilation in exam halls.
- In the exam halls no talking is allowed, this in itself will limit the risk of transmission.
- Students will still be allowed to wear their masks if it makes them feel more comfortable.

Students will however, be asked to come into the hall with their masks on and put their masks on as they leave the exam hall.

Uniform and Shoes

With all shops now open, we are expecting all students to be in full school uniform when they return after the Easter holidays. This includes black, leather polishable shoes. I would also like to draw your attention to the exact wording on the Uniform policy about trousers, it states;

'Plain Black only; full length, to at least the top of the shoe, plain material, classic tailored style with no extreme flares. Leggings, footless tights, drain pipes, cords, jeans of any sort, cropped trousers or shorts are not allowed.'

Any students not in the correct uniform will be asked to go to the PBSC until it is rectified. If you feel particular financial hardship at the moment and are unable to support your child with appropriate uniform, please do contact us so we can support you. Our uniform policy can be found [here](#).



The John of Gaunt School

A Community Academy

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<https://www.facebook.com/The-John-of-Gaunt-School-103858618366536>

We are all really looking forward to seeing our young people return to school. As this term progresses we really hope that lockdown rules continue to ease, thus allowing many more of our trips, visits, residential and practical activities to take place. As usual, if you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Kind regards,

Paul Skipp
Headteacher

