



St Bede's Catholic High School

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Headteacher: Mr. P. Denton BA (Hons), MA, NPQH

13th July, 2020

Dear Parents and carers,

Thank you for your support over the last few months. I realise that you have been working hard at home to support your children which we are all really grateful for. It has been the strangest of school years and ordinarily, in this end of year letter, I would be celebrating the great achievements of the year. I do hope that the blog has continued to capture some of these moments and achievements. Without negating the great positives of the year, this end of year letter will focus on our plans for September and beyond. We are now entirely focussed on a safe and productive return to school. We will also have a detailed contingency plan should this not be possible.

School will close for the summer term at 1pm on Thursday, 16th July, 2020.

Virtual Summer School

Our teaching staff have provided resources which will be located on the website for students to access during the last two weeks of the summer break. These activities will help prepare students for September. They will give them a head start and act as a springboard for their Autumn studies.

In-coming Year 7 students already have work they can access and our Year 9's have been given booklets to prepare them for their GCSE studies. Other year groups will have a link emailed to them in August, which will provide materials to prepare them for September. The work is optional but will be beneficial in their academic progress.

September Return

We have a detailed plan for our school in order to support a safe return in September. We have done everything we can to ensure year groups are kept as distant as possible, while also allowing students to access the entire curriculum. Due to the size of our school it is impossible to 'zone' students. We have spent many hours looking at zoning systems or reduced curriculums but in every case we have found that they either significantly reduced the curriculum or they have been impractical in terms of staffing.

Students will return in September as follows:

Year Group	Thursday 3rd	Friday 4th	Monday 7th	Tuesday 8th	Wednesday 9th
7	Induction Day	Normal Day	Normal Day	Normal Day	Normal Day
8	Home Learning	Home Learning	Home Learning	Home Learning	Induction Day
9	Home Learning	Home Learning	Home Learning	Induction Day	Normal Day
10	Home Learning	Home Learning	Induction Day	Normal Day	Normal Day
11	Induction Day	Normal Day	Normal Day	Normal Day	Normal Day

Due to the arrival of school buses, all school days will start as normal at 8.55am. All students should go to the main school yard and line up in the same way as they would for a fire drill. Y7 students will be guided by staff on where and how to line up. Students should attend school in full school uniform every day unless instructed otherwise.

The students will leave school at the following times until further notice:

3:00pm – Y7 Exit via main entrance

3:05pm – Y8 Exit via main entrance

3:10pm – Y9 Exit via main entrance

3.15pm – Y11 & Y10 Exit via rear entrance

To support reduced movement and congestion around the school site, we will have staggered breaks, lunches and end times. Full details of this can be seen on the attached plan.

Our staggered reintegration and induction days are crucial to getting us back on the right foot. We need every student to be fully aware of their responsibilities in and around school. We all want our entire school back as quickly and as safely as possible.

Additional measures

We have invested heavily in the following measures to give students and staff every opportunity to stay safe. Some of the measures we have taken are as follows:

- Extensive signage
- 2m floor markings
- One-way system with signage
- External hand wash stations
- Hand sanitising stations
- Wipes
- Safety presentations
- Student orientation
- Staff training
- Mental health and wellbeing programmes
- Refined class seating

All of these measures will only be successful if the students follow the revised behaviour policy which will be explained to them during their induction day. Furthermore, they must remember to remain socially distant, wash their hands regularly and follow the guidance given out during the induction day.

Contingency Planning

We all hope that we are not forced into a partial closure again or indeed a wider lockdown as has been seen in other parts of the world. However, we will be prepared for this by ensuring the following:

- A remote learning timetable for online learning that includes some 'live lessons/support' as well as quality resources that students can access to maintain their education at home
- Investment in IT equipment in school to ensure that all teachers have access to the necessary hardware and software to deliver remote learning
- Full audit of online learning resources in every students' home. We have attempted to gauge this during the lockdown and have a good deal of information on the matter. However, whereas during the lockdown we have not demanded work from every child due to their circumstance, we will now have to have a higher expectation of every child and their home learning.
- There will be several subjects where a higher and lower level lesson will be delivered by teachers in order to meet the needs of each student to the best of our ability.

Curriculum Refresh: Review, Revise and Restart

As I mentioned in a previous letter, we will be adopting a positive approach toward our academic study programmes. We will review what has been completed at home and prior to the partial closure. This will be compared against the requirements of KS3 and KS4 content and skills elements. We will then revise our approach to meet the needs of the students and the requirements of course specifications. That will allow us to restart with a positive mindset rather than

being concerned over gaps that may or may not exist. Please be assured that we will be relentless in our efforts to support your child's academic progress when they return to school.

How you can help?

- Talk to your child about protecting themselves and others from this virus
- Review the behaviour policy and discuss their responsibilities at school
- Alert us if your child is feeling overly anxious about returning to school
- Supply your child with hand gel and wipes for their return

I hope that you understand our rationale behind this plan. We will enforce the behaviour policy strictly only to protect your children, your school community and your families as best we can. No system is perfect in fighting against this virus but we are committed to doing everything in our power to keep everyone safe.

Have a restful summer and please do contact school if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Denton', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Mr P Denton,

Headteacher