



St Francis of Assisi Catholic College

Headteacher Ms P M Hanrahan BA (Hons)

12th May 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Government guidelines

On Sunday evening the Prime Minister gave an update regarding the current COVID-19 pandemic and on Monday there was some guidance published offering detail around the measure of social distancing, and in particular, what this may mean for schools. We will take time to understand and unpick the details from the briefing and are assured that we will hear more as the weeks develop.

Unfortunately, the fact remains that St Francis of Assisi and all secondary schools continue to be closed as institutes of education and there is no further guidance as to when or how a return will look for the whole school community.

The Government did state that secondary schools may reopen to year groups where students will sit examinations next summer, namely the current Year 10 and Year 12. We will work out the way forward using the details of these proposals as they emerge and will make sure to keep you updated.

The overriding message continues to be very unsettling but rest assured every decision will be made making sure the safety of our students and staff remains the absolute priority. We will not be rushing decisions that we later regret, so please bear with us while we take stock of the information we have so that we are ready to receive Years 10 and 12 when the Government permit this. For all other year groups there is still uncertainty around when they will return to school.

Student work

As a staff we will continue to set work that tests and quizzes previous knowledge, consolidate learning where the teacher sees gaps and deliver new content. I ask for your continued support in encouraging your child(ren) to engage with the work so that when we do return the gaps are not too wide.

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Vulnerable and critical worker children

SFA is still **only** open to vulnerable students and the children of critical workers. I know some employers will be encouraging parents and carers to return to work, but we are not in a position to extend places to other children until we receive further government guidance. In line with the government guidelines we are only providing 'childcare' to students in those two categories. In the traditional sense, school remains closed. I must be very conscious of the skeleton staff that I have in school and protecting all in our community by reducing the risk of infection to students and staff. Should you require the childcare service and meet critical worker criteria then please get in touch via the email address below.

Bereavement

Our thoughts and prayers are with anyone who may have been ill during this time or may have suffered the loss of a loved one. To help support students and families I would ask that if you feel comfortable sharing your loss with us, that you get in touch with school so that we can signpost support and ensure that we do all that we can to help when we return to school.

Transport/ Trip refunds

I am aware of the frustration that some parents/ carers may feel in having paid money for transport or trips that have had to be cancelled due to the restrictions we are all living under. We are working hard to do all that we can to speed up the process of refunding payments but are unable to return money at this point. I hope to be able to update you with a clearer time frame as to when payments may be refunded soon.

I would like to thank you for your continuous support in helping your child learn from home and the many kind communications we have received and offers of prayer and support.

If you have any questions, please make contact via the support@stfrancis.cc email address which is manned by the Senior Leadership Team each week day 8:30- 3:45pm.

Yours faithfully,

Luke Salkeld

Deputy Headteacher

