



# St Francis of Assisi Catholic College

Headteacher Ms P M Hanrahan BA (Hons)

21<sup>st</sup> May 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer

## Re: Covid- 19 update

As we come to the end of another very peculiar half term I wanted to update you on the progress we are making as a school and share where we are up to in determining when we may be able to open to more children.

I will begin by again thanking you for your unwavering support during these difficult times. I am only too aware of the many challenges so many of our parents/ carers and staff are facing. The physical, emotional and financial strains are very real along with trying to navigate and support home learning and the curriculum.

The last few months have been challenging and we face further challenges but our amazing staff, children, families and communities have risen to the challenge and I am extremely proud of how everyone is dealing with the situation.

Below you will find some key headings which aim to keep you informed of the work and developments surrounding school.

### Half term provision. Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May

Over half term school remains open to vulnerable children and the children of key workers.  
Free school meals hampers will be again available for collection from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June.

More widely, work **will not** be set by staff on Firefly over half term as I encourage students, parents and staff to take a break.

### Pastoral contact after half term

Parents and Careers should have received a communication explaining that we will be contacting all students after half term to 'check in' and see how everyone is getting on. We all miss our students dearly and want to be back being able to teach and care for them but at the moment whilst this is not possible we would like to make contact and see how everyone is.

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### **Reintegration to school for Years 10 and 12**

The Government announced that the aim was to provide some face to face time with students due to sit examinations in the Summer of 2021, namely Years 10 and 12. Governors, Senior Leaders and I, are committed to ensuring the safety and welfare of staff and students and are therefore working on a comprehensive risk assessment and plan so that when there is a return we are taking all precautions to minimise risk.

In order to effectively assess the risk, we have so far:

- Read all of the guidance documents produced by the Department for Education.
- Sent out a survey to parents of students in Years 10 and 12 about the health of their child and family and asked if they would be willing to send their child to school if we were to open.
- Surveyed staff about their current ability to work.
- Produced a draft action plan for reopening including: the organisation and management of staffing; space availability and use; hygiene and cleaning; social distancing; use and availability of PPE equipment; arrangements for food, break and lunchtime; movement around the school site; and managing sickness.
- Liaised with Walsall Local Authority and continue to do so.

The conclusion drawn is that, based on all of the current evidence and advice, we will be able to open more widely to **some students in Years 10 and 12 in the week beginning Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020**. This will be a cautious and 'safety first' model for all however there will be a second model that we hope to phase to later in the half term that builds up even greater teaching and curriculum time.

It is our intention to continue planning and researching ways to minimise the risk for every stakeholder and will communicate a detailed plan on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020. This will include a Frequently Asked Questions document, published risk assessment and video tour of how the school will look.

All risk assessments will remain under weekly review to inform any decision going forward.

### **Continuation of remote learning**

Even when some students are able to return, remote learning will continue to be the main source of learning for all year groups. Staff are working hard to redesign the curriculum for when we do return fully to ensure there is a sharp focus on any learning gaps that may have emerged. We are working on ways so that students can 'catch-up' and will have an even greater focus on mental well-being for all upon our return.

## Faith

At a time like this we must all continue to draw on the love of God and ask St Francis of Assisi for guidance so I will include the beautiful prayer of St Francis below for all to reflect upon and draw strength from.

O Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace.  
Where there is hatred; let me sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is discord, harmony;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light and .  
Where there is sorrow, joy.  
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love;  
for it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in self-forgetting that one finds,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal life.

The [support@stfrancis.cc](mailto:support@stfrancis.cc) email is still available as a way of getting in touch but otherwise for now I wish you all a safe and happy half term. I urge all to continue to follow the guidelines and the strict social distancing measures as the virus has not gone away, so please keep yourselves and loved ones safe.

As a school we are here for you and will continue to do our very best for all.

Luke Salkeld

Deputy Headteacher