



St Francis of Assisi Catholic College

Headteacher Ms P M Hanrahan BA (Hons)

10th July 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer

I am pleased to be able to write this week with greater clarity for September. The subheadings in this letter are what I can say with certainty, so long as all Government guidance remains the same.

All students will be invited to return to school in September. However, considering Government advice released on Thursday 2nd July there are fundamental changes to many of our normal operating procedures.

Health and safety

An updated Risk Assessment will be completed in the coming weeks and shared with parents on the website but to share some of the key points now I would highlight that all year groups will be kept in bubbles throughout the school, face masks are not to be worn in school as per the Government guidance but students should bring a carrier bag to store a reusable mask after using public transport. Movement of students will be minimal throughout the day, hand sanitisers will be mounted on every classroom door, hygiene guidance will be highly visible, cleaning capacity has been increased and procedures will be in place should there be a suspected or confirmed case of coronavirus.

Start days

Monday 31st August is a Bank Holiday so the school year starts on Tuesday 1st September 2020. Tuesday 1st September and Wednesday 2nd will be INSET days for staff which means no students will be in school. I believe that an effective reintegration for staff is necessary. To give the best to our students, your child, I need to give the best training to staff first and ensure that they know the routines and measures inside out.

Thursday 3rd September school will be open to the new Year 7 and new Year 12 students only so that they can be inducted/ registered.

Friday 4th September school will only be open to the new Year 7, Year 8, Year 9 and Year 13 students.

Monday 7th September school will only be open to new Year 7, Year 10, Year 11 and Year 12 students.

Leadership, including Governors, are supportive of this staggered start because it ensures that every year group has the opportunity to see and practise a day in school under the new measures before a full launch of systems on Tuesday 8th September.

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It means each year group will have a very determined reintegration, where processes, routines and well-being can be properly addressed.

Date	To attend
Monday 31 st August (Bank holiday)	
Tuesday 1 st	Staff only
Wednesday 2 nd	Staff only
Thursday 3 rd	New Year 7 & 12
Friday 4 th	New Year 7, 8, 9, 13
Monday 7 th	New Year 7, 10, 11, 12
Tuesday 8 th	All

Curriculum and Teaching

Students will continue with a full curriculum. The cornerstones of our curriculum are that it is Catholic, broad, inclusive and knowledge rich. Failing to deliver the fullest experience of the curriculum is wrong in our opinion and we will instead put all of our energies into giving students the very best curriculum experience where we amend our curriculum as we identify gaps. Our Values curriculum has also been significantly amended to respond to the well-being of all following on from this difficult time and transition.

There has been much publicity about a £1 billion Catch up fund, but as yet there is little detail as to how this will be accessed or distributed. Where we can access funds we will, but in the meantime we will prioritise quality first teaching for all.

Transport

Students are encouraged to walk or cycle to school wherever possible and we welcome students arriving by car, but I appreciate that this is not an option for many, and the use of public transport may be necessary. I have engaged with the Local Authority but there is not a viable solution and therefore if students are travelling on public transport, they should follow the guidelines to wear a face covering and remain distanced wherever possible. I know I can trust our students to be socially considerate and send a very visible message to all that they care about them by wearing a face covering.

The current bus network that services Aldridge and Erdington Road means that if students make their way to the school site as soon as they get off a bus then there will be a natural staggering to the gates. Once students arrive at the school gates we will filter them by Year group to form the necessary 'bubbles'.

Students travelling on the SFA1 or SFA2 from Tamworth will receive a separate letter from me today about these services.

School day

All student should arrive for the normal start time of 08:55. Upon arriving on the school grounds each Year group will be filtered to a separate entrance so that unique 'bubbles' are formed.

Students should attend in their full school uniform and come equipped for learning. Despite the many changes we will not lower standards that we know support learning and the school culture. In this time routines and structure will be important and coming ready to learn remains important.

In the main, Year groups will have a designated corridor within school and students will remain in a particular classroom for much of the school day, only moving for specialist subjects such as Design Technology or PE. Break and lunch times will be slightly shortened because there will only ever be two year groups having break or lunch at a time. These year groups will remain separate with a separate canteen service to purchase food and there will be separation of playgrounds so that 'bubbles' are maintained.

At the end of the school day we will stagger the release of year groups from 15:15- 15:30 and ask again that students make their way directly to their mode of transport home.

Y12 & 13

Beyond their integration day Year 12 and 13 students will only be required to be in school for their taught lessons. There will be stringent safeguarding process in place regarding signing in and out of school and should students want to remain on site then the Sixth Form area will be open. This approach will be reviewed after two weeks but we believe it is helpful to reduce the overall number of students on site in the first instance.

Canteen

A canteen service will be available again in September. Our catering company have worked tirelessly to ensure all food preparation and service meets the government requirements and beyond. You should have absolute confidence in the food offer and I am pleased to say that we will be running a 'safe' service and encourage students to make use of the facility so that we can maintain the service.

Collective Worship

Government guidelines do state that collective worship (assemblies) can take place upon returning to school but in the first weeks we will not run big gatherings, other than for the reintegration days, so as to reduce the number of students and staff in one place. Instead, collective worship will be delivered using some of the technologies that we are now more aware of due to the lockdown period.

Next week I will be able to share further logistical information with you but whilst there are many changes and adaptations taking place I want you to be confident that we will reset and relaunch our ethos, culture and standards so that everyone is safe and can get back to learning.

God bless,

Luke Salkeld