



# St Francis of Assisi Catholic College

Headteacher Ms P M Hanrahan BA (Hons)

16<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer

I wish to start by reflecting on the difficulties that so many within our family have faced during this pandemic. Our thoughts and prayers go out to everyone who is bereaved or has struggled in any way in the last six months. The struggles experienced are very real and we empathise and commit to supporting as best as we possibly can. The strength now comes in knowing that with the Lord's guidance and blessing we will grow in love and kindness together.

From myself and the whole staff body I want to wholeheartedly thank you for your support and feedback throughout the year but especially over the last few months. There has been much to celebrate including launching our new curriculum and teaching and learning approach but there are so many other special moments and acts of kindness that we can all reflect upon which continue to make SFA such a special place.

As thoughts now shift to the holiday and September there are a few subheadings below to help.

## **Best wishes**

As with the end of each year we have some staff moving on to new chapters and challenges so we say goodbye and best wishes to Mr Sicilano (DT), Mrs Swain (RE), Mrs S Hall (SEN & Well-being) and Mrs Fatemamode (Maths). On behalf of us all, I thank them for their work for our students and community and want them to know they will be forever part of the SFA family.

## **Learning**

Everyone needs a rest and the holiday starts for all on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July at 15:30. Therefore, students will not have work set via Firefly over the holiday. That said, for the current Years 10 and 12, staff will upload some revision work or pre- reading of forthcoming topics. It would be great if students choose to work to support with preparation for September and the exams next summer.

More widely, the one-bit advice to support all students progress would be to read. Read books (physical or via a device), blogs, websites, newspapers, even turn the subtitles on when watching the TV or any streaming service. Reading is key to learning and the more anyone does the better set they are for the future.

## **Health and Safety**

The Risk Assessment for September's return will be published on the website early in the holiday but as with last week I wish to reinforce some of the key points. We are creating and maintaining the integrity of year group bubbles, cleaning schedules have been created where housekeepers go in

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between lessons and clean down work spaces. The risk of transmission and infection is being managed and we are meeting the guidance set out by the Government and the underlying principle remains that we are doing everything we can to keep all stakeholders safe.

At the height of the pandemic we kept the school open and then reintroduced 243 Year 10 and 12 students safely. We will never be complacent but I am confident we can safely bring everyone back and manage any incident should it arise.

Regarding Physical Education (PE) specifically, there will be an update on the school website at the beginning of the holidays about PE practice. We will still be running PE lessons and students will change in school but we will share some of the specifics in a letter.

### **September return**

Below is the return to school schedule for students as per last week's letter. It has also been shared via Firefly for all students.

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

For the Autumn term the school site will not be accessible to students before 8:30am. When students arrive on site there will be signage and staff present to direct students to their entrance and areas for the day. From that point onwards, we will be very visible in managing the limited student movement to specialist classrooms and to break and lunch.

### **Uniform/ Equipment/ Culture**

Routines and structure continue to be heavily valued at SFA and after this period of disruption we will quickly reinstate the known and predictable structures and routines. With this in mind, I do expect students to attend in full school uniform in September. Where uniform is not correct it will be challenged and a swift resolution sought. Shoes remain shoes- not trainers, and I expect the school uniform to be worn correctly.

Students are expected to come prepared to learn with their school bag and equipment. The responsibility to come prepared rests with the student. Being ready to learn helps us reduce the need to borrow equipment and therefore reduce possible transmission, so please come with full writing equipment.

We will relaunch our high expectations of culture and behaviour. Never has this been more important because now we are not just considering 'behaviour' but, in fact, the safety and dignity of everyone. Low level disruption is never acceptable but, in a time where we want to accelerate

learning no time can be lost. Furthermore, the low-level behaviour of turning around, for example, now actually presents a safety risk so will be managed.

Anyone who deliberately breaks the health and safety rules and therefore jeopardises the safety of anyone in the community will be sanctioned proportionately and in accordance with the addendum to the behaviour policy.

### **Canteen**

The canteen will be operational again for September. There will be a safe lunch service where a cold food package will be prepared of wraps, sandwiches or baguettes along with a side, dessert and drink. This will be pre-packaged and the service will be of a grab- and- go nature so again a major reduction in possible transmission. This will be at a set cost of £2.20 and ParentPay remains the payment system.

As the term continues we will then introduce a hot service and grow slowly and carefully as confidence grows. I strongly encourage the use of the canteen and catering service so that the offer remains viable. Please note that there will not be a break time service from the canteen in the initial phase of return.

### **Language**

There is much in the media about 'lost learning' or students having to 'catch-up' or having being 'forgotten'. However, there is much more powerful literature that says we should not be using this language with the risk that it becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. You will not hear us refer to any of these terms going forward and I would urge you as parents/ carers not to use these types of terms either. The collective drive is to consolidate learning and teach in a very purposeful and focussed way.

### **Website and communication**

The content featured in the pop- up on the website will be reduced before Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July. Key information will still feature, including this letter and information about results days.

The [support@stfrancis.cc](mailto:support@stfrancis.cc) email address will still be staffed during the holiday if there are questions or queries that we may assist with. The safeguarding email address of [cp@stfrancis.cc](mailto:cp@stfrancis.cc) will also remain operational. For all other information such as Transition guidance, policies or parent communications please use the relevant tabs to navigate the website.

This has been a year like no other. When we return our focus will be on safety, well-being, and structure/ routines to ensure all are safe and learning. Should we be in this position again we will be better prepared but for now please take care, love one another and we will see you in September.

God Bless,

Luke Salkeld