



Diocese of Middlesbrough



# ALL SAINTS RC SCHOOL

Diocese of Middlesbrough  
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Our Ref SKE/SWO

3 July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

This letter will update you on some important pieces of information regarding the school's response to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and the collaborative planning that has taken place between the York schools. I will be outlining our practical plans for addressing areas of need as well as some joint thinking from the secondary headteachers and Local Authority.

## Uniform

**Students may wear the full (new) uniform in September including blazer, skirt or trousers, sleeveless jumper and tie. The navy skirt and jumper is no longer acceptable uniform.**

**Alternatively, we are allowing students to come back to school wearing the All Saints PE kit.**

This year we were looking forward to seeing the whole school coming back in September in the new uniform, however, we believed it was necessary to modify our plans. The current DfE guidance was not available when the decision was made to inform our supplier that we were not making full uniform compulsory until October half term. There were principally two reasons behind this decision;

- The government were encouraging schools at that time to ensure children wore items that could be easily washed. Their guidance changed this week.
- It is still unclear how easy it will be to try on items of clothing and shoes to get the correct size, or how easily accessible some items may be. We, therefore, wanted to give parents as much time as possible to purchase these items whilst also having the opportunity to spread the cost over a longer period of time.

We believe that our Uniform plays a valuable role in contributing to the ethos, standards and expectations of our school. However, our first priority has been to ensure that families are not faced with further unnecessary financial pressures over the summer months that could arise when trying to buy all the uniform items at once.

We will continue to insist that students wear the correct school PE kit or uniform. They will not be permitted to wear alternative non-school hoodies for example, and those who are able to come back in uniform will need to wear it appropriately and with pride. There will be no adjustments to our expectations regarding jewellery, hair and makeup. When we return to school after the October half term all students must be wearing full uniform. We will work with any families who may need support with this once we come back to school in September.



Compassion



Truth



Respect



Forgiveness



Justice



Service



Gentleness



Humility



Stewardship

## Preparing for a Return to School

It is important that everyone has a break over the summer, however, I am conscious that some students will want to prepare for the coming year and maintain their progress. Some departments will set support work for completion over the summer. There is also work on our school website which students transitioning into our Sixth Form in September have been encouraged to complete.

## Exam Results Days

We are looking forward to seeing our Year 11 and year 13 students on their respective results days (13th August for A level and 20th August GCSE). To comply with social distancing guidelines, we will be sending out individual timeslots for students to collect their results. We are very aware that this has been a difficult time for many students who are due to receive GCSE and A level grades this year, but we will be here to support them with their next steps. Further information regarding the organisation of the results days, including the sixth form enrolment process, will be available shortly. This information will be sent out to all students who will be receiving examination results this year. Should any local restrictions be in place during this time, our plans may need to be altered.

## Mental Health and Wellbeing

Like all schools, we will be working hard to ensure our children are fully supported academically when they return to school. A key priority will be to ensure that we provide the appropriate input and expertise to enable all students to catch up and close any gaps in their knowledge and understanding that may have developed during their time away from school.

A questionnaire has been sent out to all families, and it would be very helpful for our planning if you could fill it in with as much detail as possible about your individual child/children.

To support our academic input, it is important to acknowledge that young people can only fulfil their potential when they feel safe, positive and engaged. We have therefore decided to modify the start of our school day. We will be extending our registration time each morning by 10 minutes to ensure that when they come back to school, our young people have the opportunity to talk to each other and engage in non-curriculum activities. We intend to structure the use of this time to help with organisation and reintegration back into the routines of school life but most importantly to give staff and students the time to be together and to re-establish the relationships that are so important to a successful and happy life.

## Summer Holiday Plans

In line with government guidance, school will **not** be open over the summer holiday for key worker or vulnerable students.

We will be using the time to continue to plan for September as well as undertake some vital building works. It is also important that staff are given the opportunity to spend some time with their families and have a break from work.

We are aware that some parents will need to have some childcare in place and the guidance for parents and carers can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

## Covid Catch up Plan

The government announced a £1billion catch up plan to address the disruption to children's education during the Covid-19 pandemic on 19 June:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/billion-pound-covid-catch-up-plan-to-tackle-impact-of-lost-teaching-time>

It has been widely reported that this will provide schools with up to £90 for each pupil to fund catch up activities and additional money to deliver one to one tuition for Disadvantaged pupils. The government has not yet published the guidance for schools on delivering this plan or the amount of money which each school will receive. Parents/carers should not expect that £90 will be allocated to their child, or that they will receive one to one tuition using this funding or through the National Tutoring Programme, which was also included in last week's announcement. The additional funding is to be spent across the next school year (September 2020 to July 2021), and we will develop our plans to use it when the government guidance has been published.

It has also been widely reported Schools could use catch up funding to run Summer Schools. In the absence of detailed information, this would be very difficult to manage and there is little evidence of pupils catching up as a result of Summer Schools. In York, schools will only run Summer Holiday activities which are already established and run every year. You may find the websites below helpful when planning for the summer holiday period.

<https://www.york.gov.uk/children-families/youth-activities-groups/1>

<https://york.mumbler.co.uk/kids/child-care/kids-club-holiday-care/>

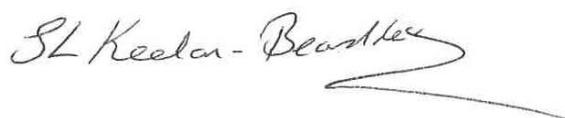
<https://york.mumbler.co.uk/school-holidays/summer-holidays/>

### **Planning for September**

Through the York Schools and Academies Board the council, Multi-Academy Trusts and schools have agreed some key principles around planning for September:

1. We are committed to the full opening of all schools in September in line with recent government announcements and to making schools and schooling as normal as possible.
2. When the DfE guidance is published we will work together to develop logistical approaches which may include some variations from schools' standard operating models depending on context.
3. Whenever necessary we will work together to ensure that there is access to education for any pupils who are not able to attend school at any stage. This may arise, for example, due to transport issues or the temporary full or partial closure of a school.

Yours sincerely



Mrs S L Keelan-Beardsley  
**HEADTEACHER**