



## ST MARY'S COLLEGE

23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

You will be aware of the ongoing building work which is set to provide an exciting and substantial addition to our estate. Given the extraordinary circumstances in which our project team have had to operate, they have been unable to confirm handover of our new building on the revised deadline of 28<sup>th</sup> October. Whilst this has left us in a difficult position, following the latest update today, it is looking increasingly probable that we will be able to proceed. On that basis and with apologies due to the late notice, I write to inform you of our provisional plans for next half term.

The scale of the project means that significant reorganisation will be required and to ensure that we are ready to safely receive students, we plan to delay their return to site until **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**. Work will be set using Microsoft Teams to complete independently whilst staff work to prepare the school and ensure the best possible environment for learning is secured.

**STUDENTS SITTING EXAMS - PLEASE NOTE:** National examinations will continue on site and any student who is scheduled to sit an exam on **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November must attend**. School transport will remain available for these students but will leave the site at lunchtime once examinations are complete. Any students who are sitting exams or involved in targeted immersive preparation will be contacted separately with details and expectations for the day.

We will write to all parents and carers on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October as soon as we receive final confirmation from the project team so that the necessary arrangements can be made for remote learning on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. We will also publish updates on our website and social media.

In anticipation of this development and armed with the significant learning from this half term, we have reflected carefully on how best to utilise our new accommodation in service of our children. There will be a number of adjustments for different year groups both with respect to teaching spaces and during break/lunch times and we will spend time with students in the first week back introducing them to any relevant changes. A focus has been to improve the provision for Year 9 and 10, opening up the curriculum and removing the reliance on temporary accommodation, as well as ensuring that the requisite independent learning space for our post 16 learners is reinstated. As part of this restructuring we will create a Year 9 / 10 zone which will allow greater access to the specialist spaces and IT required for the delivery of Key Stage 4 programmes. Whilst in the main these year groups will operate independently of one another, there will be shared access to specific spaces with associated measures in place to support our established systems of control.

Thank you again for your support which has been much appreciated throughout this half term. Whilst we cherish the many joys our students unfailingly provide, we recognise that there will be further challenges to come this academic year and look forward to overcoming them together.

Yours sincerely

Mr D Perry - **Head of School**

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