



13<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As we move in to the final week of the academic year, I write to further update you with our emerging plans for expanded school reopening. For clarity, I should restate our intention to warmly welcome all year groups back to school full time in September. I again encourage you to follow this [link to guidance](#) for parents and carers in order to familiarise yourself with the basis on which the decision to reopen schools at a national level has been made

You will not be surprised to hear that there remains much work for us to do to prepare the school over the summer break. However, we felt it important to provide students and families with some of the broad principles as soon as practicable.

Having considered a range of options, we have come to the view that the most effective way to respond to the 'systems of control' laid down in government guidance, is through a **zoning model**. This supports the creation of 'Year group bubbles' whose movement is carefully managed in order to minimise mixing of the school population during school hours as far as possible.

I provide an overview below:

- The school will be separated in to specific zones to include Years 7,8,9,10,11 and post 16. Post 16 students will also be encouraged to maintain distance and take additional ownership of the 'system of controls' in their own environment.
- Zones will have everything students will need throughout the day, including teaching spaces (with computer access and performance space), an indoor social space and a designated outdoor space as well as toilet and handwashing facilities etc. They will be broadly consistent in terms of location with current Year group bases where students begin the day in their forms.
- Students will be expected to remain in their zone throughout the school day and will be provided with coloured lanyards to support monitoring.
- Specific teachers / identified staff will move between zones in order to enable delivery of the full curriculum and will therefore make every effort to maintain distance in their practice as well as adhering to robust routines for the wider system of controls (see below).
- Application of the 'system of controls' includes ensuring any individual displaying symptoms does not attend school, effective hand washing/sanitising routines, ensuring good respiratory hygiene practice and enhanced cleaning protocols.

#### **Breakfast, Break and Lunch**

Students in Years 7-11 will have a mobile provision for accessing hot and cold food in their zone every day. On at least two days a week they will be granted exclusive access to either the Canteen or our Academy café. Post 16 students will retain their normal use of 'The Pod' throughout the day.

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Executive Head/CEO.  
Mr G Fitzpatrick

Head of School  
Mr D Perry





### Entry and Exit

An enhanced duty presence will focus on maintaining swift movement in to and out of zones at the beginning and end of the day. Slightly staggered release times for different zones at the end of the day will be introduced and each Year group will have designated exits and entrances to the school site. New lanyards should be visible immediately from arrival so staff can direct movement appropriately.

### Travel

It is essential that we have an awareness of intended modes of transport for all students prior to the summer break. This will enable us to develop the resources and site management protocols to accommodate students arriving and exiting each day. It will also allow us to continue our engagement with the Local Authority, to support public transport in responding appropriately to demand.

You will shortly be receiving a text message with a link to an online survey (link also included [here](#)). **It is vital please, to support our planning, that you follow the link and complete the form separately for each of your children who attend St Mary's.** The deadline for completing the survey is **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July**. It will take no more than a couple of minutes to complete.

School buses will offer less flexibility than they ordinarily would with revised protocols in place. Details will be provided well in advance of September, but you should expect allocated seating, specific rules around face coverings consistent with national requirements for children who are aged 11 or over, and sanitising routines on entry and exit.

### School will reopen in September as follows:

September 7<sup>th</sup> – Staff INSET

September 9<sup>th</sup> – Year 7 and Year 12 return to school to receive a deferred transition.

September 14<sup>th</sup> – All Year groups return to school.

There will be some temporary revision to policies and procedures to reflect the adjusted organisation of the school for the start of the academic year. There will also be some temporary physical alterations to the site to accommodate plans, particularly in the first half term whilst we negotiate the period prior to release of our new building. These will be shared as appropriate in advance of September and fully reviewed with students on our return, as part of their reintegration process.

In forming necessary decisions, we continue to make every effort to respond to the science and the guidance we receive. These will inevitably evolve, as will our thinking, and all decisions to that end are subject to ongoing review. I appreciate there is a lot to digest and much more detail to follow. In the meantime, I encourage you all to enjoy the summer break as much as possible.

Thank you in anticipation for your continued and deeply valued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr D Perry - Head of School

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