

Our Ref : SPP/JET
10 July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

We are nearly at the end of an extraordinary school year and next week we will send a letter celebrating all the wonderful things that have happened during the 2019-20 year.

However, the purpose of this letter is to give you some information about the new school year and the school's plans for a full reopening. The government has stated that all schools will reopen in September, for all students, but with a number of changes. These are outlined below.

The government guidance states that there must be a system of controls in place to reduce the risk of the virus spreading in the school community

The System of controls:

This is the set of actions schools must take. They are grouped into 'prevention' and 'response to any infection'.

Prevention:

- 1) minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school
- 2) clean hands thoroughly more often than usual
- 3) ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- 4) introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach
- 5) minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible
- 6) where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)

Numbers 1 to 4 must be in place in all schools, all the time.

Number 5 must be properly considered and schools must put in place measures that suit their particular circumstances.

Number 6 applies in specific circumstances.

Response to any infection:

- 7) engage with the NHS Test and Trace process
- 8) manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community
- 9) contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice

Numbers 7 to 9 must be followed in every case where they are relevant.

Point number 5 is linked to how schools should group students and the approach to be taken of creating year group 'bubbles' for teaching purposes. All teachers and other staff can operate across different classes and year groups in order to facilitate the delivery of the school timetable. This will be particularly important for All Saints as a secondary school, as it will allow us to deliver the curriculum with specialist teachers. Where staff need to move between classes and year groups, they will be trying to keep their distance from students and other staff as much as they can (ideally 2 metres from other adults).

Both the approaches of separating groups and maintaining distance are not 'all-or-nothing' options and will still bring benefits even if implemented partially. Each measure will help us to reduce contact and avoid the spread of the disease, but we will not have to be as strict as we are at the present time.

In practice at All Saints, what will this mean?

We will be grouping year groups in school into particular areas of the school and most lessons will take place in the same area. For Y11, Y12 and Y13 students there will be use of specialist spaces for examination courses, that will necessitate more movement around the building, but there will be enhanced cleaning running alongside this. For other year groups, specialist spaces will be used when possible.

The VTG system will temporarily be suspended, as this has age groups mixing on a daily basis; instead, students will be registered in year group forms.

There will be some staggering of arrival at school, between 8.15am and 8.45am with students entering the building through one of three external doors (more will follow about this in August).

At break and at lunchtime, year groups will use different social areas.

In classrooms, desks will all face forwards and the teacher will be based at the front of the room.

Students should bring their own pens, pencils etc to reduce the need to share equipment as much as possible.

It is important to say that many things will remain the same – the wearing of full school uniform, the set of timetabled lessons, the excellent staff-student relationships, the emphasis on working positively.

In terms of Start Up in September, we will be welcoming Y7 and Y12 students on Wednesday 2 September (Y7 at 8.30am and Y12 at 9.00am); Y11 students will start at 8.45am on Thursday 3 September and all other year groups on Friday 4 September (times to follow).

On 20 August (GCSE Results Day) we will publish on the website and by MyEd a further letter with more specific details, based on Public Health England's and the government's advice at the time.

Please stay safe over the school holidays.

Yours sincerely

C J Siddall
Deputy Head