



16 July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are all keeping well.

As we come to the end of the academic year, I wish to express my most sincere thanks to you all for your support, patience and understanding during lockdown. It has certainly been a year like no other and one we will not forget!

As you will be aware, the DfE issued guidance to schools just over a week ago. A link to this can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools#introduction>

There are many details in this guidance that will affect the way we work in September. Our emphasis on Health, Wellbeing and Education are still at the heart of our plans, as is our intention to continue to raise standards as we work towards bringing Catholic excellence to our school.

Further details will be sent to you in a 'Welcome Back' information pack at the end of August. This will outline precisely how we will meet the expectations set out by the DfE.

As families, I realise you will need to know some key information to enable your own planning over the summer holidays.

1. Return to school dates

In line with Local Authority guidance, we will be adding an extra staff-training day to our calendar in September. We will also be asking students to return gradually, to ensure they are fully introduced into our new ways of working. The dates of return will be as follows:

Tues 1st September STAFF ONLY

Wed 2nd September STAFF ONLY

Thurs 3rd September YEAR 7 and YEAR 11 STUDENTS ONLY

Fri 4th September YEAR 7, YEAR 11 and YEAR 10 STUDENTS ONLY

Mon 7th September YEAR 7, YEAR 11, YEAR 10 and YEAR 8 STUDENTS ONLY

Tues 8th September YEAR 7, YEAR 11, YEAR 10, YEAR 8 and YEAR 9 STUDENTS

Please note this order has been planned carefully according to the Health & Safety expectations for each year group.

Our school day begins for students at 8.30am. This will not change. Each year group will have a separate dedicated entrance.

2. Uniform expectations

Our standards of uniform will remain high, and will not change.

However, due to restrictions around the use of changing rooms, **students will be expected to come to school in their PE kit, with their blazer, on the days that they have PE**. Further information regarding extra kit for students to wear if the weather is cold, will be available via our uniform suppliers 'Ziggy's' and will also be on our website.

3. Travel to school.

There are still several restrictions in place for public transport, and there may still be in September. We are keen to continue to work alongside Greater Manchester Travel to ensure they have up to date information around demands for transport to our school. If you have not already done so, could I ask you to complete this short survey so we can keep them well informed. <https://forms.gle/9LMb7rLki1yzCf6A>

May I also encourage as many students as possible to walk or cycle to school, as long as you feel it is safe to do so.

Finally, since I last wrote to you, it is worth reminding everyone that St Matthew's has continued to be open throughout lockdown, and our staff have continued to make contact with almost every single student. I am so very proud of the way our community has responded to this very challenging situation.

You will be receiving an end of year newsletter in the post next week, which highlights some of the fantastic work we have achieved this year. Please enjoy reading this!

September will be different. However, I do believe that challenges bring opportunities. Our dedicated staff throughout the school are highly committed to ensuring each of our students remain safe, well and achieve the very best they can.

Many thanks for your ongoing support. I wish you all a safe and peaceful summer, and I look forward to working with you all again in September.

Best wishes

Mrs Murden