



8 June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you are all keeping well.

The DfE released updated guidance for Secondary Schools over the half term break and it is important that I share the main points with you. The full guidance can be found below. I will outline how we will meet the expectations set out by the DfE.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-schools-from-1-june/planning-guide-for-secondary-schools>

Key worker provision

We have been providing a provision in school since the day we went into lockdown, throughout all school holidays and bank holidays. This is not happening in all schools. On behalf of you all, I continue to formally thank our staff for this.

As lockdown measures are lifted, and more of you return to work, I realise that more of you may need access to this provision. For this reason, I have increased the number of places that will be available each day. If you require a place, the booking arrangements remain the same. Please email Mr Atkin, s.atkin@smrchs.com, giving full reasons and days/dates when you would like your son/daughter to attend.

Please note, I must respectfully ask that you understand that these places are limited. Each application will be looked at carefully and then places will be allocated based on the greatest need. Also, given the high demand please be aware that if a place in the provision is allocated then it should be used. Failure to attend school will result in the place being offered to another student.

Students returning to school.

My priorities regarding bringing more students and staff back into school can be summarised in the following order: Health, Wellbeing, Education.

Our site and cleaning teams have been working very hard to bring our school in line with social distancing requirements. We have also introduced extra hygiene and health expectations across the school. Here is a link to a short film that is also available on the school website, which outlines how we are going to achieve this safely <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1RjGG3kw7iOXWrmulAUN7Oi0zXKaeAwfL> I encourage all parents/carers to watch (including those parents/carers of non-year10 students).

All year 10 students will be invited back into school, from 15th June. However, **they will not all return on the same day.** We can accommodate 25 students per day, in order to keep social distancing measures in place.

Full details will be communicated to year 10 students in the coming week via a letter and via the phone calls that their form tutor will make. They will be told the day and the time that they should come into school.

Online work (Home learning)

It is now clear that home learning will continue as the only form of education for students in Years 7, 8 & 9 until at least the end of term. This is disappointing for us all. Form Tutors have been contacting students weekly, offering great support to them as they manage their school work and talk through any concerns they have at this unusual time. These conversations have been invaluable and will continue to the end of this academic year.

I am very proud to say that as a community, we have been in contact with almost every single student in the school each week. This is down to the dedication of our staff who know how vital it is to keep standards of learning high as we continue to improve St Matthew's for our students.

However, I must also thank you all for your support with keeping these standards high. As a parent myself, I really do understand the demands of managing 'home schooling' alongside your own work. It is not easy!

May we continue to work in partnership to bring standards of excellence to our wonderful school.

Best wishes

Mrs Murden