Tuesday 9th June

Dear Parents and Carers

**Re: Year 12 - Wider reopening of school**

I sincerely hope that this email finds you and your loved ones safe and well during such challenging times.

When I wrote to you just before the Half Term break, I stated that the Government guidance at the time was that secondary schools should start to reopen their doors to some Year 10 and Year 12 students from Monday 1st June. However, over the Half Term break, the Government changed their stance over this, introducing the new directive that schools should now start to provide in-school face-to-face support for Year 10 & Year 12 pupils from **Monday 15th June**.

In addition, the Government has been very clear that to minimise any potential risk of infection, schools should only be inviting, at most, a quarter of the cohort in at any one time, which for St John’s would be a limit of 35 Year 12 pupils on any one day; clearly this stipulation, whilst incredibly important for everyone’s safety, has very real implications for the type of provision that a school can offer under these restrictions, particularly as each Year 12 student studies a different combination of KS5 Options to their peers.

Following this most recent Government announcement, the school has been working extremely hard to make arrangements in line with the Government’s guidance so as to ensure that your child receives the support that they need at this critical point in their education, whilst also ensuring that the school is as safe as possible for both pupils and staff. The safety and wellbeing of everyone at St John’s is of paramount importance to me.

**How will our provision work?**

As you may be aware, a significant number of virtual lessons have already taken place via MS Teams for Year 12 students and the feedback received from students and parents has been extremely positive; a real highlight of the school closure period.

Over the coming weeks we are hoping to further increase the number of subjects that are able to deliver virtual lessons via MS Teams, so that the number of students required to physically attend school before the Summer holiday can be minimised. However, from Monday 15th June, a select number of subjects will be offering an in-school provision to complement our school’s virtual provision, and students will be made aware of these opportunities via email invite from their respective subject teacher. We really do hope that students are able to attend these face-to-face lessons.

Our 6th form provision for the remainder of the term as far as actual lessons are concerned is as follows: -

**A Levels Subjects**

* 2 hours of education per week is to be delivered to students via virtual lessons on MS Teams OR on site, via face to face lessons.

**BTEC Subjects** *– Please note that these expectations differ to those for A level subjects based on the fact that the government has announced that any outstanding BTEC units that were due to be finished in Year 12 do not now need to be completed by students. Year 13 BTEC Units will need to be completed as normal next academic year and BTEC teachers will be tailoring the support they are currently offering students to best prepare students for next academic year. If your son/daughter would like any further information on this matter please ask them to contact their BTEC teacher(s) directly.*

* One 2-hour lesson is to be delivered virtually via MS Teams or face to face on the school site prior to Friday 3rd July. The lesson should take place in either the week beginning 22nd June or 29th June.

A full timetable of both the virtual and in-school sessions for Year 12 will be placed on the school’s website as soon as it has been completed.

In addition to this, we are inviting all Year 12 pupils into school for individual meetings (c. 30 minutes in duration) with members of the KS5 Pastoral Team. The aims of these meetings are to: -

* Check how well students have been engaging in their learning
* Discuss where there may have been issues in learning
* Talk through any concerns or anxieties they may have
* Discuss their vision for their future after they leave St John’s and how we can help them plan for it
* Have a conversation about how they have been coping during the lockdown

At this moment in time, following recent telephone conversations between individual families and the KS5 Pastoral Team, we have targeted these meetings to take place for those students who we feel would most benefit from this opportunity. The KS5 Pastoral Team are in the process of contacting home to all Year 12 students and will be arranging mentoring sessions every Thursday and Friday from 18th June until the end of term. They plan to text home the time and date of the session offered and would appreciate a confirmation response via text to state that your child is able to attend this session. However, if your son/daughter has not been invited to one of these meetings by Monday 29th June, please email Mrs Smith - msmith@stj.kent.sch.uk – our Head of Year 12 & 13, to request for a meeting to be arranged.

**When will my child attend school?**

* For those students who have been invited in for face-to-face lessons with their subject teacher, the school day will operate from 10.00am to 12.00pm. We ask students not to arrive before 9.45am and we cannot accept any student arriving later than 10.15am. Students will need to leave site immediately at 12.00pm.
* For those students who have an individual meeting with a member of the KS5 Pastoral Team, we ask that those students arrive 5 minutes before their scheduled meeting and then leave the school site straight away once the meeting is finished.

**Safety, movement and hygiene arrangements**

We fully recognise that a return to school has to be in as safe a manner as possible. No school can guarantee students are 100% safe, in the same way that we cannot guarantee complete safety in normal circumstances. What we have done, as detailed below, is to ensure the best possible safety in line with current Government and Public Health England guidance.

Below is a summary of our safety arrangements. We have formulated a full and detailed risk assessment, which will be updated regularly, and the latest version will be published on the school website.

We have also developed a Home-School agreement which clearly sets out our expectations that, we believe, fully support the highest possible standards of safety. If you do send your child into school,

we will take this as your agreement to **completely support this Home-School agreement.**

**Site logistics and Hygiene**

* Hand sanitisation dispensers will be placed at key entrance and exit points to the school.
* So as to support with strict social distancing on the journey to school, we will be permitting parents to drop off and pick up pupils from the school site in their car.
* Where students are attending school for face-to-face lessons, students will assemble and be supervised on the MUGA upon arrival at school and then be registered and escorted to the areas where their lessons are scheduled. So as to minimise the number of pupils on site, a maximum of two scheduled lessons for Year 12 pupils will take place each day.
* Strict social distancing between students will be enforced at all times.
* Students will remain in their allocated learning area for the duration of their time in school

(there will be no student movement around the school) with the exception of toilet breaks

which will be supervised in the same manner as during a public examination.

* Students will be escorted directly off site at the end of their lesson.
* No normal break or lunch breaks will be taken.
* The school canteen and café will be closed.
* Students will be expected to bring any snacks and drinks they wish to consume with them to school.
* Our current Key Worker provision group and selected Year 10 students who will also be on site, will be kept separate from Year 12 pupils at all times.
* We will have an enhanced cleaning schedule in place with student desks and chairs thoroughly cleaned after use each day, and toilets after each break.
* PPE for staff who will come into closer contact with students (First Aid). Teaching staff to remain at 2M distance from students as far as absolutely possible.
* We will not be expecting students or staff to wear masks, however anyone wishing to do so can as long as they bring them from home.
* Students to bring in their own equipment; students will not be permitted to share equipment with each other.

**Social distancing measures**

* Enhanced duty teams (mainly Senior Leadership Team) on entry to the school, across the school site and on leaving the school.
* Duty teams to ensure that students stay 2M apart. Students whose behaviour is deemed unsafe will be sent home and they will not be permitted to return until they can stay safe.
* Clear expectations posters displayed.
* Clear distance markers where appropriate.
* Staggered dismissal times.

**Reacting to incidents**

* If any student or member of staff shows any symptoms whilst in school they will be immediately isolated to a pre-arranged room.
* That person will go home and will need to arrange a COVID test. They will not be permitted to return until a negative result is received. In the instance of a positive result, they will need

to self-isolate for the required period.

* If a student or staff member who has been in school has a positive COVID test result, we will work with NHS Track & Trace and Public Health England to take appropriate action. We will always keep parents fully informed in this circumstance.

As mentioned above, this is just a summary of arrangements taken from the full risk assessment.

We are asking students to avoid public transport as far as possible in getting to school; however, where this is not possible, they must adhere to the latest rules of using public transport. The new guidance is that anyone using public transport must wear a mask.

**What we ask of students/parents**

To make this work, it must be a full collaboration between the school, student and parent:

* We ask that you and your son/daughter carefully read through our Home-School agreement which will be emailed out to you, and that you agree to abide by all the conditions set out in that agreement.
* Students are not sent to school if they have any COVID symptoms or feel at all unwell. Any students that arrive to school feeling unwell will be sent home.
* Students bring with them all the equipment that they need for that day.
* If students are not adhering to our expectations, they will be sent home.

We hope that the above shows that we have thought a great deal about a safe return to school, and have sought to create the right balance between safety and allowing our students the advantage of time in school. We have very much missed seeing students in school and are looking forward to some of our Year 12s returning to school from the 15th June.

We are aware that some students won’t be able to attend school for a range of reasons. These students will still have the full online learning opportunities that other students have and we will ask

those teachers who are delivering in-school lessons, wherever possible, to post online any of the resources they have used in school for students to go over at home. Of course, those at home will not have the benefit of direct instruction, mentoring and support in school, but they will have access to any resources used.

There is specific Government guidance for children who have medical conditions or who live with family members with medical conditions that put them at a higher risk if infected. In addition, we understand that there will be some concerns with the increased risk reported for anyone from a Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) group which may influence your decision-making when deciding whether to send your child back to school.

Any decision not to send your child into school at this point in time is parental choice and you will be supported with whatever decision you make. However, I can assure you that, as a school, we are doing everything we can to ensure the highest possible levels of safety are in place, in line with current guidance.

If your son/daughter is invited to attend school for a lesson and they are unable to attend, please ensure you email a member of the Key Stage 5 Pastoral team at the earliest opportunity so we are aware.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to email a member of the KS5 Pastoral team and they will get back to you.

* Mrs Ainscow: lainscow391@stj.kent.sch.uk
* Mrs Smith: msmith@stj.kent.sch.uk
* Mr Cadwallader: dcadwallader@stj.kent.sch.uk
* Miss Burton: cburton@stj.kent.sch.uk
* Mrs Chambers: achambers@stj.kent.sch.uk

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to thank you again for your continued support at this incredibly difficult time. We know that you, like many of our staff, have been combining trying to

look after and support your family at home with all of the other responsibilities that you have - all whilst having increased worries about the health & wellbeing of family and friends. Our community spirit remains strong and I know that we will get through these challenging times together.

Yours faithfully



Matt Barron

Headteacher