Tuesday 9th June

Dear Parents and Carers

**Re: Year 10 - 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 48 Year 10 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.

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.

**When will my child attend school?**

* The school day will operate from 9.30am to 12.30pm. We ask students not to arrive before 9.15am and we cannot accept any student arriving later than 9.45am. On arrival, students will be directed by a member of staff to go straight to the MUGA. Students will need to leave site immediately at 12.30pm.

Please also note the following:

* We cannot change days or groups for any students at this stage. These have been carefully planned and ensure that we can create traceable groups. This may be reviewed after the first two weeks of the program.
* Canteen facilities will not be available; therefore, students should bring in a drink and a snack. Please note that students will not be permitted to share drinks or snacks with their peers.
* Students will be required to wear school uniform on the day that they are in (no blazers are required). However, if there is an issue with this, please contact Mrs Rooke (hrooke@stj.kent.sch.uk) who will deal with this situation in her usual empathetic manner.
* FSM vouchers will continue for those students who are entitled to them.

**How will our provision work?**

* We have split Year 10 into five ‘day’ groups. These groups will be no bigger than 40 students and will be largely based, although not exclusively, on core teaching groups.
* This model means that students will be invited to attend school for 1 day per week. On the remaining four days, pupils will complete follow up work from their in-school lessons and continue with online learning for their non-core subjects.
* So as to ensure that this experience is managed as safely as possible, students will be taught in our Sports Hall and there will be no movement around the school building, apart from if/when pupils need to use the toilet.
* Students will be taught Core Subjects and EBACC subjects (Maths & English one week, followed by Science, RE and their EBACC option the following week).
* 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 package for non-core subjects and we will ask core teachers, 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 will be supported. However, I can assure you that, as a school, we are doing everything we can to ensure the highest possible levels of safety in line with current guidance.

**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.
* Students will assemble and be supervised on the MUGA upon arrival at school and then be registered and escorted to the Sports Hall.
* 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 lessons.
* No normal break or lunch breaks will be taken.
* The school canteen and café will be closed.
* Student Breaks will be taken in the Sports Hall and students will be required to stay seated at their assigned desk during the break.
* 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 12 students who will also be on site, will be kept separate from Year 10 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, in the Sports Hall 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 child 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 be 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 our year 10s returning from the 15th June.

If your son/daughter is unable to attend school please ensure you email a member of the Year 10 Pastoral Team at your earliest opportunity so we are aware.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to email a member of the Year 10 Pastoral Team and they will get back to you.

* Mr Murray: mmurray@stj.kent.sch.uk
* Mrs Rooke: hrooke@stj.kent.sch.uk
* Mr Self: tself@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 children 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