



# ST MARY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

a Catholic Voluntary Academy

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22 May 2020

Dear Parents, Carers, and Pupils of Year 10

I hope this letter finds you all healthy and well.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your commitment, patience, and support throughout this difficult time. I know how hard our pupils have been working and doing everything we would expect of them and more! Thank you to parents and carers too for supporting the education of your children along with your other commitments. I fully appreciate the challenges you are all facing.

I also understand the frustration you will all be feeling regarding the potential reopening of schools to Year 10 and Year 12. There are still many uncertainties even today, which is why we have taken a careful and measured approach to planning any wider opening to pupils other than the cohorts who have been eligible to attend since the lockdown began.

The Government and Department for Education have given the following guidance regarding the return of Year 10 pupils:

***Secondary schools, sixth form, and further education colleges to begin some face to face support with year 10 and 12 pupils, although we do not expect these pupils to return on a full-time basis at this stage.***

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

With this in mind, we are planning to offer 'Consultation Days' for Year 10 pupils and parents/carers to come in to school and have face to face contact with their teachers. This would provide an opportunity for meaningful conversations to take place about the work completed so far and what is required going forward. We are planning a similar format for Year 12 and Mr Bradley will be contacting pupils and parents/carers about this in due course.

We will **not** be inviting pupils back to be taught as before this term. This is because the safety and wellbeing of our entire school community is our number one priority. We need to adhere to Government guidelines, advice from Public Health England and the Local Authority regarding issues such as social distancing, and we cannot do that with the entire year group returning to be taught in classrooms. **Therefore, remote learning will continue for the remainder of the academic year for all year groups.**

Of course, our current provision for the children of critical workers and vulnerable pupils will continue unchanged.

We are finalising the logistics of the consultation days and I will be in touch with you again after half-term to share specific dates and arrangements. **They will begin the week commencing 15 June.** There will be no school bus service during this period.

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***Live, Love and Learn in the Light of Christ***

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Each school has had to make difficult decisions on the provision they feel is most appropriate and logistically possible to put in place. The plans outlined in this letter are of course dependent on the Government guidance at the time so may be subject to change. Once again, I thank you for your ongoing support and understanding.

Keep working hard Year, 10 and we will see you soon!

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'H McKay', with a long horizontal line extending from the top right of the signature.

**Miss H McKay**  
**Senior Assistant Headteacher**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M Dengate', written in a cursive style.

**Mrs M Dengate**  
**Headteacher**