



# ST MARY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

a Catholic Voluntary Academy

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Our re: L 933c CB/MH

July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As the academic year draws to a close, I would like to share with you a number of points concerning St Mary's re-opening to all Sixth Formers from September.

Firstly, can I state how pleased I am that all our Sixth Form students will be returning to school and new students joining us. During, what has been a difficult and unsettling period in our history, the greatest challenge has been not having all of our students where they belong, here at St Mary's. Our students, and our relationships with them, are the guiding purpose for us all and we very much welcome the opportunity of re-establishing our community, in person, once again.

Re-instating the full curriculum and pastoral support for Sixth Formers, whilst maintaining health and safety, are the absolute priorities and in order to achieve this, a number of amendments to the school's usual ways of operating, must be implemented.

The aim is to maintain as much distance between year groups as possible, in order to achieve individual 'super-bubbles' – the Sixth Form will be one such 'super-bubble' given students work independently and are not supervised at all times. Due to St Mary's campus - style layout, most classrooms have external entrances. Lessons will therefore still be taught in departmental and specialist rooms, as movement around school largely happens externally and can also be additionally managed by a new one-way system.

The additional hygiene and cleaning measures, implemented during the school closure period, will continue from September.

Whilst we can implement a range of measures, it is still incumbent upon students to take personal responsibility for social distancing and individual hygiene. All members of the St Mary's community must also adhere to the following, despite potential individual and parent/carer inconvenience, in order to keep our students and staff as safe as possible.

## Travel to and from school

- Students who travel on school buses must wear a mask whilst on the bus and sit in year group designated areas following specific Derbyshire County Council guidance. Bus companies are introducing enhanced cleaning and hygiene procedures.
- Students must sanitize their hands before boarding a bus.

## Uniform

- Students will return in full uniform in September. Girls may wear flesh coloured tights or ankles socks. 28<sup>th</sup> September is the return to full winter uniform and therefore navy blue tights.
- Students must come to school, on the days where they have PE, in their PE kit and school blazer. Navy jogging bottoms must be worn.

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

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### Structure of the school day, school environment and facilities

- Please see attached for the new structure of the school day.
- Staggered breaks and lunchtimes, alongside the re-location of form period, will facilitate fewer students making contact outside of lessons. VIVA kitchen will be open throughout the day for drinks and snacks as usual.
- Students will be issued with a contactless card linked to ParentPay, rather than the current biometric system in the dining room. Students can also use their debit card or phone.
- Year groups have been allocated separate social zones in VIVA and outside as well as separate toilets in order to avoid year groups mixing as much as is practical.
- Students joining us from other schools will receive a letter with their ParentPay log-in details in August along with a temporary bus pass if applicable. This is a change from information described by me on the Virtual Transition Day.

### Curriculum

- The full curriculum will be maintained for all year groups.
- Tutor time has been moved and period one will begin at 8.45am. Year 12 will receive more details about their first day, Monday 7 September, at enrolment. Year 13s will need to go straight to their form base on Tuesday 8 September.

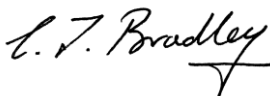
### Pastoral Support

- Heads of Year and the school's well-being team will work with students to support them following the enforced period of absence from school.
- Miss Errington is the Head of Year 12 and Mrs Smith is the Head of Year 13.

Clearly, government guidance may change over the summer and if that is the case I will write to you again before school re-starts in September, with further information.

Thank you for your support over recent months, our values remain steadfast and our motivation to do the very best for your children, in an ever-changing context, is undiminished. Do enjoy what may be a different summer and I will remain in contact to update you of St Mary's plans, as the national guidelines evolve.

Yours faithfully



**Mr C Bradley**  
**Assistant Headteacher**