



# ST MARY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

a Catholic Voluntary Academy

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Our ref: ES/MH

July 2020

Dear Year 12

It seems almost unbelievable that we have reached the last week of the last term of Year 12 and that I am now writing to you, rather than addressing you all in assembly.

You should all feel immensely proud of your achievements this term and during lock down. We are certainly proud of you. This whole period has been one of unprecedented uncertainty and change, and the way you have risen to the challenge has been impressive.

However, we recognise that you will be keen to get back into class and having face to face contact with staff. To facilitate this as quickly as possible after the summer, we have brought forward our start date to **Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> September**.

We have carried out rigorous risk assessments and plans to ensure that school will be safe to return to in September. You will need to adhere to any new procedures laid down, as you did on the consultation days, but we are confident that we have done whatever we can to make the school safe for you and for staff.

One of the necessary changes we have introduced is that we are no longer using biometrics for VIVA kitchen. Instead you will all be issued with a card, linked to your parentpay account, which you can swipe to pay for food. Alternatively, you will be able to use your bank card or phone as currently. Remember to ask your parents or guardians to top up your parentpay account ready for September.

There may be some changes to the school day to keep year group 'bubbles' apart as far as possible within school. However, the start and finish times will remain the same and school buses will be running. Your form tutor will update you with any changes on the first day, when you will also get your Year 13 timetable. Please go straight to your form room when you arrive on the school site.

Remember your new form groups / tutors:

- 13 ALPHA (HS/PN) previously 12HS/PN + 12GC (form room P2)
- 13 CHI-RHO (DG) previously 12DG + 12SP (form room P1)
- 13 ICHTHUS (HY) previously 12HY + 12AN (form room S5)
- 13 OMEGA (KN) previously 12GS + 12KN (form room M1)
- 13 PAX (LM) previously 12LM + 12PL (form room A2)
- 13 PNEUMA (KH) previously 12KK + 12KH (form room C3)

A small number of you are due to do a basic competency test in September. You will need to be in school on **Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> September**. Please arrive at 13.45 (after lunch), unless your staff tell you otherwise. The head of department for whichever subject test you are sitting will be in touch to confirm the details.

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

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Over the summer you should continue to complete your UCAS application. Where you know what course you want to apply for we would strongly encourage you to complete a first draft of your personal statement ready to give to your tutor by the first week back in September, as indicated by Mrs Thurlow in her email. Early applicants already have their deadlines and need to ensure they refer regularly to the guidance given by Mrs Thurlow. However, we do realise that some of you will not yet have decided which course of study to follow, so for you the main priority is to continue to do your research to help inform that decision.

When you return in September you will be the most senior year group in the school, and I know for sure you will be fantastic role models for our younger students, lead by an outstanding School Council. You have coped with lock down, adapted to remote learning and become the most amazing independent learners. You can all navigate Teams, as well as organise a week's worth of varied tasks and deadlines, and most importantly of all, you log on to check your email almost as often as the Sixth Form Pastoral Team!

Use your time management skills to factor in a period of rest and relaxation. Next year will be stimulating, but also challenging and busy and we will all need to renew our energies, ready to start the new school year.

Do stay safe over the holiday period and we look forward to seeing you all back, in school, in VIVA, in your classrooms and form rooms in September.

Best wishes



**Mrs E Smith**  
Head of Year 12 (soon to be Head of Year 13!)



**Mr C Bradley**  
Assistant Headteacher

