



St Joseph's Roman Catholic High School

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22nd June 2020

Dear parents and carers

After weeks of planning, I am pleased to say that we have brought back four cohorts of Y10 students safely. A huge thanks to parents and carers, students, staff and governors who have supported us to get this right. The task of reopening school was daunting but necessary, as we play our part in repairing some of the damage caused to society by COVID19. Last week it felt like we started to glue together some of the fragmented parts of our community. We saw faces of fear coming down our driveway transformed into happy, safe learners in the classroom. It has given those involved some hope that although this pandemic has bettered us, it hasn't defeated us and that the possibility of life returning back to normal in the not too distant future is a realistic hope.

We have tried hard to contact students at home either by email, Epraise messages, phone call or in some cases socially distant visits. Different personalities respond in different ways. Whilst some students are thriving we understand that some students may need more one to one help and the new government guidelines now permits us to extend our opening to accommodate this. To this end we have developed an appointment system so that students who need more guidance and support or need some help maintaining positive mental wellbeing can come in and meet a member of staff in a socially distant setting. We will target those who we know are struggling, but we will also make this facility available for those who would like to access it.

If you wish to book an appointment (for you, your child or both) please call the school office on 01204 697456. Some students may be shielding or find it hard to travel to school so when you call the office you can arrange either a phone call or a video call using Microsoft Teams. To use Teams your child will need to have details of their school email address and this information can be found by contacting emailrequest@st-josephs.bolton.sch.uk.

Appointments will be available from Wednesday 24th June. For appointments in school we ask that you arrive via our Sefton Lane entrance and wait outside our new reception area. The member of staff will come out to meet you and take you to an area where you can meet with social distance. These areas will be sanitised before and after use. Please be aware that students have to be accompanied by staff at all times due to the fact that we still have contractors working on this area of our site. Hopefully you might get to see some of the exciting new changes to our school building but unfortunately we won't be able to show you round until contractors have finished their work.

Don't forget that these appointments are optional, your child may be very settled in their learning routine, but if you need us for any reason we are here for you. Please contact the relevant member of staff in school by epraise message or drop us a line at togetherapart@st-josephs.bolton.sch.uk

Many of you have been asking about September and although we can't give precise detail, as our plans are dependent on scientific and public health advice, rather than leave a vacuum of information I thought you might find it helpful to see the three scenarios we are planning for:

| Scenario | Content | Pedagogy | Assessment |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Normal Opening Covid19 levels are low enough for all students to return to school as normal | Curriculum is designed to rescue and fill the gaps created during school closure. Key concepts are main focus of learning. | Normal timetable 100% face-to-face Targeted teaching designed around scheme of assessments particularly for Y11. | Immediate assessment to identify gaps Prioritised assessment for Y10/11 depending on DfE guidelines produced for Y11 2021 external exams. |



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| | Intensive interventions are in place for those that require it | Breaktime arrangements staggered to reduce large numbers | Y7/8 use of progression scales to identify areas of priority for subject foundation concepts. |
| 2. Hybrid model Some Covid19 remains in community but is manageable with social distancing / smaller classes | Curriculum is designed to map face-to-face and online learning priorities. Key concepts are focus on face-to-face sessions and ensuring understanding of on-line requirements. SOW are designed to differentiate between key concepts and home learning topics | Face-to-face depends on guidelines produced. Possibility of one year group in each day or half the school in Week A and half in Week B depending on guidance. Home learning focuses on consolidation of face-to-face concepts and needs to be more independent. | Key pieces of assessment are designed to be teacher assessed. Assessments to be completed at home so face-to-face time is not reduced. Y7 and Y8 Progression scales to inform T&L and students of their "gaps" so that these can be addressed and foundation concepts consolidated. Evidence to be gathered for Y11 grades in case of Centre Assessed Grades being required. |
| 3. Online learning Covid19 levels increase and home learning is required | Curriculum is solely delivered on line using lessons learnt from this school closure period. Focus on use of technology for lesson to ensure "face-to-face" opportunities. | Use lessons learnt from school closure particularly interactive lesson. SOLs are reviewed to ensure gaps are not created/enhanced through 2 periods of school closure. | Assessments completed online through variety of methods. Progression scales used, so that progress and gaps can be monitored and addressed. |

We are very keen for all students to be able to access their school emails and would like to help those people who are struggling with this. This opens up the free Office 365 suite for our students. If your child doesn't know how to access them they should contact emailrequest@st-josephs.bolton.sch.uk or call school. This is vitally important as we develop our online curriculum especially in the case of scenario 3.

Whatever happens, much of our curriculum adaptations will depend on DfE decisions on what GCSEs will look like. As soon as we know more we will share our plans with you.

Over this period of time our prayers have often been of pleading God for his help and protection. There are many members of our community who are hurting because of the challenges of this pandemic either with their own health, their family's or sadly those mourning people they love. We remember them in our prayers but today let's also end with some praise and thanksgiving. For one, I am thanking God for the amazing team I am surrounded by who have helped us struggle through these challenging times. Thank you for playing your part in that.

Lord,
We thank you for your blessing and protection on our school community as we start to reopen in a safe manner. We ask that your presence will be upon us and our families as we seek to build your kingdom here on earth.

Stay with us Lord, on our journey.

Until next time, take care, keep safe and God bless!

Tony McCabe
Headteacher

