14th April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

A huge thank you to you all for your patience as we work to make our site safe following the recent floods. The bad news is that the damage is quite extensive and that 7 newly refurbished teaching spaces and numerous offices spaces and meeting rooms are now out of action for the foreseeable future. The good news is that because staff acted quickly to remove the water, some areas such as the hall and the kitchens will be soon repaired to a safe standard for the short term to get us open, while more substantial repair work can be scheduled during the summer break.

We have been working with Zurich insurance and their partners who fully support our vision to be open as soon as possible to young people. We have now been assured that the drains and electrics have been made safe to start to bring some students on site and we have an ambitious plan (subject to numerous caveats e.g. new teaching spaces passing safety checks) to bring all year groups back by the end of the week. As I am sure you can imagine this has been especially challenging given the COVID safety measures we have had to adhere to.

**Phase 1.** Tomorrow (Wednesday) **Year 11 will return from 8:30am until 1pm.** Period 4 and 5 will be a double so their teacher will set work for P5 to be completed on their return home. All buses will run as normal in the morning, and will return for pickup at 1pm except the 617 and the 915. Students will need to enter by the main school reception. Students on Maths, will go to their timetabled room. Students on Science will be told which room they should go to on arrival.

Students must not leave the new build during the day unless supervised by a member of staff. The Y11 yard will be available at break and we are hoping to provide a pod service for students but this is dependent on our kitchen passing the safety checks.

All other year groups will be taught remotely. Don’t forget our dedicated email address if you need any support during this time: [togetherapart@st-josephs.bolton.sch.uk](mailto:togetherapart@st-josephs.bolton.sch.uk)

**Phase 2.** We hope to increase the number of students in school on Thursday with the ambitious vision to bring all year groups back on Friday. This is dependent on further swab and moisture tests of communal corridors and fire safety checks going to plan.

At the moment we are implementing short term solutions to get young people back into school. We will need full cooperation from all students as we live with some short term inconveniences and manage the flow of students around school in a safe way. Therefore, we ask that you ensure your child has a face covering to do their part in keeping each other safe.

Finally, I was reminded today, that whilst the simultaneous demands of a pandemic and a flood might seem onerous, we are not the first group of people in history to face such challenges. Indeed, we should spare a thought and a prayer for those in developing countries that face this challenge without the excellent support from insurance companies, but also we remember in Exodus that when the ten plagues were sent, God remained true to his people and led them to the Promised Land. We hold onto this faith as a community knowing that the same God will see us through.

Thanks again for all the support over this past week.

Take Care and God Bless!

Mr T McCabe

Headteacher