



15 May 2020
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ST JOHN'S MARLBOROUGH – COVID 19

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you and your families are all well. As the week has developed, at last there appears to be some movement towards a way out of the lock down and St John's is working hard to put a plan in place, for a build up to the return of Year 10 and 12 students.

As you will also be aware, we are being told to address the Government's ambition for some sort of 'face to face' type meeting with the students in these two year groups in Term 6, as well as maintain the in school provision for the vulnerable students and children of key workers. The Senior Leadership Team are actively preparing for this right now and as soon as we can distribute a plan to the parents and carers of students in year 10 and 12, we will do so. Personally, I cannot wait to get the Academy up and running again and despite the fact that there will be some changes to the way the students and the school will have to operate, the sooner we can have students and teachers back safely the better. We know too that we have to be in a strong position to reassure everyone associated with St John's that we have acted upon all the advice and guidance to make things as safe as possible.

The current directive does mean that it is highly likely now that we won't be seeing the rest of the students properly until September. We are incredibly mindful that this will make it a very long period of time since they were last in a real school environment. Energy also needs to be directed into how we will be able to keep all the students engaged and focused upon what is important, so further thinking is going into the way we can supplement our current offer. More and more teachers are now engaging with some form of either live or video link embedded into their teaching. The Teaching Unions however, are very clear about teachers not being directed to deliver lessons in this way and whilst more and more lessons are coming online, we cannot insist on everyone delivering live or video linked lessons.

In terms of reaching out more, the running of the live assemblies this week was a very positive experience and they are events that we are planning to develop and do more of. It is clear that the turnout to watch the presentations was high so please let us know if there is anything specific that you would like us to cover, or feedback on and we can attempt to incorporate as much as possible.

Do note the attached letter that has come out from Nicky Edmondson, Excalibur's CEO. This outlines further detail about the move out of lockdown, and also highlights the fact St John's will not be open to students during the traditional mid-term break.

Please do continue to stay engaged with us and we appreciate hearing from you through the covid-19@stjohns.excalibur.org.uk email. We also continue to keep up to date our dedicated area on the school website which can be found at: <https://www.stjohns.excalibur.org.uk/latest-covid-19-information/>. The Twitter feed continues to be a very useful way of staying in touch with what St John's are doing in the community, so please follow that and re-tweet if you wish.

With kindest regards

Ian Tucker
Principal

