



26 June 2020

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ST JOHN'S MARLBOROUGH – COVID 19

Dear Parents and Carers

Another week has passed, and I am all too aware that just now we should have been seeing all of our students enjoy each other's company in the sunshine as well as helping them to engage with their lessons in real time. Whilst I know that our Year 10 and 12 students along with other specified groups, have some access to face to face teaching in the Academy, this is still leaving the vast majority of our students learning from home all of the time. I was hoping to be able to have many more students from each year group to be able to have some direct contact with staff over the remaining three weeks, but the Department for Education (DfE) have made it very clear to school leaders that such programmes are not to happen in any sector, whether state or private. I have to adhere to that guidance, but we are allowed to provide some face to face contact for a small number of hard to reach students in Year 7-9. These students will be contacted directly and for all other students, we will remain committed to phone call catch ups, emails and the provision of remote learning in a variety of forms.

Exam Results

Again, we have to adhere to the advice from Central Government on this, but we do feel it is important that we provide some sort of face to face meeting when the Year 13 and Year 11 students receive their Centre Assessed Grades in August. More will follow on the logistics of results day, along with a clear statement from the Academy and the Trust about the grading process in general. Those directly involved will know, but in case you had forgotten the Year 13 results will be available on 13th August and Year 11 on 20th August 2020.

COVID Summer Food Fund

Many of you will be aware of the Government's change of policy with regard to allowing students entitled to free school meals access to food over the summer break. We warmly welcome this change and those of you it involves can find out more about it [here](#). We will be writing to all students that we know are eligible for this offer in the next week so that as parents and carers, you will have plenty of time to register. We can also help you if you should experience any glitches with your applications. As with all these things, there is a critical time limit in which to express your interest, so please do look out for correspondence from us or make a start using the link above.

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September 2020 start

At the time of writing we are all of the understanding that schools across England will be open to all year groups from 1st September and there will not be a need to put rotas in place for students. We also know too that the DfE will issue more concrete advice on this to schools next week. However, we need to put plans in place and it is our ambition that all students will be back in the Academy by the end of the first week in September. The proposed return currently looks like this:

Tuesday 1st September – Staff Development Day as already arranged, and the Academy is closed.

Wednesday 2nd September – Year 7 only and Year 12 in to sign up and register.

Thursday 3rd September – Year 7, 8 and 12 in.

Friday 4th September – All students in.

If we are forced to make any changes to this arrangement, we will be certain to let you know as soon as possible.

Before I sign off for this week, I would like to thank you personally once again for the support you have given your children and St John's during this challenging period. I sincerely hope that the light can be seen at the end of the tunnel in terms of being able to have the students back. I am optimistic too that we can all play our part in making sure that we follow all the guidance and emerge without too many further complications as a nation. So much has been sacrificed already and the students will benefit beyond measure if we can all hold our nerve and do everything we can to see them through St John's doors in September.

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/>.

As ever, I hope that you and your family are staying well.

With kindest regards



Ian Tucker
Principal