



03 July 2020

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Dear Parents and Carers

ST JOHN'S MARLBOROUGH – COVID 19

As I write, the Senior Leaders of St John's have just finished working on provisional plans to welcome all the students back through the academy doors in September. You will be pleased to read the letter from the CEO of Excalibur, which states that we will definitely be open to all students in all year groups from the start of September. I will be in touch with you all very soon with the decisions that we have made, and I hope that we can move forward without any setbacks. There will have to be some changes to the way we operate as a school and I will need you to work with us and be mindful of them. Similarly, I know that whatever we put in place, we will have to be prepared to run like that for the whole school year.

The response of the virus to the winter months will almost certainly mean that we need to try and be as consistent as possible. We will also have to have clear plans in place to be able to switch remote learning on should the threat of a local lockdown become a reality. Whatever happens, please be assured that we are fully committed to offering the broad and balanced curriculum which St John's has always set out to do. There will also be access to catch up programmes where necessary and additional support for those students who are entering exam years.

We will be expecting students to return to school in uniform as it is made very clear in the guidance that this is safe practice. Other elements that are well worth reminding you about as we prepare for the September return include:

- Ensuring that anyone who is ill stays at home.
- Following the clear expectations around behaviour and hygiene routines.
- Ensuring that everyone engages with the NHS Test and Trace arrangements.
- Keeping to the principles around social distancing which, wherever possible which will help minimise the potential for contamination.

Please look out for more information in the coming week which will help you to prepare for the changes. If your child has an SEND profile which means that they would benefit from extra preparation ahead of the re-start, you will be contacted by our SEND team as well.

For all the students in Key Stage 3, the PE department will be running their virtual Sports Day on **Friday 10th July** and it will run all day from 9:30am until 3:15pm. There will be activities and challenges set throughout the day which will be both physical and theoretical. Because we want the students to focus on this for the day, we will not be expecting them to work from their 'normal' lesson timetable.

This is a briefer update than usual but there will be more to come next week. 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

