



4<sup>th</sup> September 2020  
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Dear Parents and Carers

## **ST JOHN'S MARLBOROUGH – COVID 19 Start of Term 1 - Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

In the process of writing around 24 letters to you over the last 6 months, this is the one letter I have been desperate to write. Having just finished a walk and tour of the school and seen it back in action, I am delighted by the eager learning and enthusiastic teaching and support that I have seen taking place. The air at break and lunchtime has been full of happy chatter and laughter and the way the students have taken on board the need for us all to wear face masks in communal areas, sanitise and handwash regularly, means that the social distancing in a school this size can be managed confidently. Unity on all these simple factors along with the one-way system and the 'My Space' principles are important to maintain so that we do everything we possibly can to stay open safely. The students are back where they need to be; and I am delighted by that.

### **The Arrival of Year 7 and 12**

It has been a highlight to see the new Year 7 students arrive looking extremely smart in their new uniform. Considering they have been away from formal school for some time and were unable to take part in the usual induction processes, they have settled in exceptionally well. Year 12 have also enrolled with places in the Sixth Form at St John's being in very high demand. To all our new starters, at any point on their school journey, you are most welcome.

### **Facemasks and Equipment**

Having a personal facemask on you at all times is now an important requirement for our students and staff. We have given out quite a number of disposable masks to students today, but this is not sustainable. Please note that from the middle of next week your son or daughter will be able to buy a washable, fabric facemask for £1 from Reception if they need one. Students eligible for free school meals will be provided with one without charge if needed. Disposable masks will only be provided in exceptional circumstances from Monday onwards. The same principles apply to students having access to their own classroom equipment as outlined in earlier letters. Thank you for your support with this and if you need any further help, do get in touch with your child's tutor as a first port of call.

There will be a great deal more to write to you about in due course in terms of Academy plans and outcomes from the Summer exam series, but this letter is about reassurance. It is an update on that commitment from us all to put the lockdown behind us and to come to terms with this 'new normal'. Your children have taken bold steps this week and played a huge part both nationally and internationally in how we handle COVID-19; I want to thank everyone for that.

As ever, I hope that you and your family continue to keep safe.

Yours sincerely

**Ian Tucker  
Principal**

