

Dear Parents,

Update on returning to school in September

I hope everyone has enjoyed the summer holidays this year. We are now looking forward to the new academic year and welcoming all of our children and students back to the schools in the St John Paul II Multi Academy Company. A lot of hard work and dedication from school and academy staff has gone in to ensuring that all schools will be ready for the safe return of everyone from next week. We firmly believe that school is the best place for children to be academically, socially and emotionally and we are confident that we can get this to work safely. Please read the attached leaflets giving general information for parents on how the return to school is being managed. There is one for primary schools and one for secondary schools. For more detailed information, the government has also produced some detailed guidance for parents which can be found through the following link: [DfE guidance for parents on opening of schools in the autumn term](#).

The St John Paul II Multi Academy Company is committed to ensuring that all children are given the support needed to catch up and recover on their return to school in September. In order to achieve this, the Directors have agreed that all of our schools are adopting the following five key priorities during this recovery phase. School leaders will make decisions locally on the most effective and efficient way to achieve these key priorities.

1. Preparation – safety, organisation and timetabling

- Safety remains an absolute priority so each school has a COVID-19 risk assessment in place to reflect the new measures required by the DfE (see attached summary). For everyone's safety, children must not attend any school if they have COVID-19 symptoms and must get a test as soon as possible.
- Parents need to be aware that attendance is now compulsory. If parents have any concerns about this, they are encouraged to talk to their child's school as soon as possible so that we can support a successful return to school.
- As we are satisfied that we have a robust set of protective measures in place which are in line with the latest DfE guidance, we are not expecting children to wear face coverings in any of our schools, with the exception of secondary students who need to access transport to and from school. This will be kept under review and may need to change in response to any local changes in infection rates.

2. Restoring the Catholic school community

This will be central in supporting everyone's return and will be instrumental in restoring the connection with our faith, rebuilding confidence and our sense of community.

3. Assessing the level of need

Assessment will be a focus of the first few weeks and will take account of health, social and emotional well-being as well as academic needs with a particular emphasis on our most disadvantaged students.

4. Curriculum – broad and ambitious

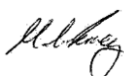
- We will adapt the curriculum but keep it broad and balanced to allow effective catch up and recovery.
- The additional catch up funding announced by the government will be used to support intervention and catch up in individual schools alongside the National Tutoring Programme where necessary.

5. Contingency planning – high quality home learning provision.

It is possible that classes, cohorts or whole schools in our MAC will need to close temporarily at some point next term. We may also be subject to local lockdowns at some point. However, we will be better prepared when this happens having had the chance to review and learn from the most effective strategies used by schools to support learning at home. All schools will ensure that high quality home learning is in place if a full or partial school closure happens.

More information about how the return is being managed locally will be communicated from your child's school before the start of term. I am appealing to everyone in all of our school communities to continue to be socially responsible and follow the current advice on staying alert, controlling the virus and saving lives. This is vital if we are to keep everyone safe and keep our schools open. I look forward to seeing everyone back next week.

Yours sincerely,



M A Emery
Acting CSEL, St John Paul II Multi Academy Company