

12/5/20

Dear parents, carers and pupils,

Many of you I am sure will have been listening to the address by the Prime Minister on Sunday 10 May in which he updated the country on the proposed changes to the current lockdown arrangements.

With regard to education his words were as follows:

'In step two - at the earliest by June 1 - after half-term - we believe we may be in a position to begin the phased re-opening of shops and to get primary pupils back into schools, in stages, beginning with Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. Our ambition is that secondary pupils facing exams next year will get at least some time with their teachers before the holidays. And we will shortly be setting out detailed guidance on how to make it work in schools and shops and on transport.'

With regard to 'pupils facing exams next year' this will relate to those pupils in years 10 and 12. Over the weeks ahead we will begin to make plans for these pupils to begin to return to school at some point before the end of the academic year in July. The likelihood of this happening will still depend on the impact of earlier changes so in the meantime it is still vital that all pupils, including those in years 10 and 12, continue to complete the work being set by their teachers online or in the packs being sent out to those without access to IT.

We are aware that the longer pupils are away from their classrooms, the harder it can be to remain motivated and we very much appreciate everything you are doing in order to continue to support your children at home. We are currently exploring ways of being able to introduce new learning material to students in order to keep them progressing, however we will need to be very careful about the way in which this is done in order to ensure groups of children do not get left behind. We will prioritise pupils with exams next year in this work but will continue to ensure all pupils continue to have carefully planned work set regularly and that teachers take regular feedback on progress for their classes. Year teams will continue to check in on pupils and support with any issues around access to work and workload.

If Year 6 pupils do return to primary school as intended at the beginning of June this may allow us to organise some face-to-face transition work for those coming to Saint Benedict in September, however, due to the need for social distancing, this may not be possible for all pupils or may have to be conducted in stages. We will contact parents by mid-June if and when primary pupils return, to inform them of the details around this transition activity.



We will examine the guidance that the Government has published to ensure that we can help all of our children as much as possible to continue to learn and make progress while remaining safe.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020/actions-for-education-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

In the event that some pupils do return before the end of the school year we will be working with the St Ralph Sherwin Catholic Multi Academy Trust to ensure they can do so as safely as possible. As such we will be setting out classrooms, corridors and social spaces to ensure pupils can safely distance as far as possible and to ensure they can maintain good hygiene and cleanliness in school .

Once again can I thank you all for everything you are doing to support your children and the school, your efforts have been superb. Thank you also to the many who completed the recent online survey conducted by our trust. Results were very positive and parents and pupils spoke very positively of their experiences of working while at home and of the support they are receiving. We will also be looking very closely at the feedback in order to refine current systems and procedures to try to ensure that all pupils and parents have the very best support possible over the weeks and months ahead, whether they are working at home or in school.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Gritton".

Kevin Gritton  
Headteacher



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