



Saint Benedict  
A Catholic Voluntary Academy

Our ref: KEG/C/MM

9 June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are very much looking forward to welcoming back our year 10 pupils from Monday 15 June and are currently in the process of carefully planning the layout of the school site and the routines and procedures for our new school day.

At the beginning of June the government changed its guidance to state that on any given day only a maximum of 25% of the year group will be allowed to attend school. This means that all pupils will only be able to attend school for one day per week.

We have assigned Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday as the four days which year 10 will be in school with 25% of the pupils in on any given day. We will then use Wednesday for cleaning purposes initially and then as time to support our Year 12 pupils who we hope to bring in from the beginning of July.

All year 10 pupils have been allocated the day when they will attend along with the group they will be placed in on that day A,B,C,D or E. It is very important that they know this in advances so that they will know where to line up on the bus bays as they arrive. Each white line on the bus bays has been marked out with 2m lines which pupils should stand on ready for us to brief them on the first morning when they are due to attend. All pupils should make their way to the bus bay as they arrive in school every day. The teaching groups have been carefully planned around the options which pupils have chosen and the teaching groups they are already in, so it is important that each pupil remains in the same group that they are allocated to.

In order to ensure we can run the school as safely as possible there are a number of important changes which pupils need to be aware of and which we will need your help to implement. These are as follows:

1. Pupils will still need to wear their school shoes, trousers and shirts but do not need to wear their blazers and ties – this is to reduce the risk of virus transmission. If pupils wish to wear a jacket or top they may do so but hooded tops are not permitted in school. Normal uniform expectations will apply to jackets in that they should not be training tops or have logos displayed.
2. Unfortunately we will not be able to provide transport to and from school during June and July. I appreciate that this will provide a challenge for some parents, however, the bus company are unable to provide a viable service with only 20 pupils per bus which is the number permitted with social distancing. We are working with the local authority to try to identify funding to make this possible, however, at this stage none is available. We are making contact with parents who have responded to our recent survey saying their only means of travel to school is on the bus to see what alternative arrangements might be possible including public transport. This means that on the one day per week each pupil is due to attend they will need to make their way to school by their own means. This might mean pupils walk, cycle, use public transport or are dropped off by a parent. Please do not allow your child to meet with friends on the way to or from school. Please accept my apologies for there being no school bus service as I know it will present a challenge for a number of pupils.
3. We will be able to provide a cold lunch for pupils who are in school (a cheese or ham sandwich) along with a snack and a drink for the usual cost. However, if you are able to provide your child with a packed lunch, this would help considerably as we are looking to reduce the risk of contact in school. Those parents who have received vouchers for school meals can continue to do so if they are providing packed lunches in order to support this additional cost.



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St Ralph  
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Catholic Multi Academy Trust



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4. If your child displays any symptoms of Covid-19 please do not send them to school and contact the government testing programme to organise a test to be carried out. If a child displays any symptoms in school we will require a parent to come to the school and collect them immediately.
5. We have updated our uniform and behaviour policies which we would be very grateful if you could look at, particularly the Covid-19 addendum section. With regard to face coverings and gloves, these will be permitted as pupils travel to and from school. However, in school, current guidance from Public Health England states that face coverings and gloves are not required in school. We have carefully planned the site and the school day to enable pupils and staff to maintain a distance of 2m at all times, therefore masks at this stage are not required. This change is reflected in uniform policy which is on the school website.
6. If your child suffers from hay fever, please can I urge you to ensure they have taken antihistamines prior to coming to school.

We are sending an electronic version of this letter today, Tuesday 9.6.20 and a posted version which includes individual information for pupils on which group they will be in, will be sent on Wednesday 10.6.20.

We will also send out a pupil/parent guide with photographs and explanations this week which will be in the form of a PowerPoint and Loom presentation to explain how the day will look when pupils return. We will send a link to this presentation to pupils' email addresses on Thursday.

We will continue to set work in the usual way for all those who are working from home, so please encourage your child to continue to complete their study at home as well as that in school.

These have been very strange times so we are really looking forward to welcoming our year 10 pupils back to school so that they can receive some teaching before the end of the school year. We will continue to do everything we can to support your children in the run up to their GCSE examinations and we appreciate everything you have been doing to support at home.

We look forward to seeing your child over the weeks ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Kevin Gritton,  
Headteacher.



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