



St. George's Catholic School

16th July 2020

Dear Parent,

I am delighted to welcome you back to St George's school from September 2020. We are planning for a full return to school of all students at this time. Of course, I am saddened that, given the Coronavirus Pandemic, such disruption was caused to the life of the school. It has been a challenging year, but I am confident that, given the adjustment to our systems and protocols, we can open in a manner that is safe and in line with the government guidelines.

Our primary concern is the safety and welfare of all who work and learn in our school, and as such a number of changes will have to take place in order for all students to return here in September. Please keep a close eye on the website as this will be updated over the summer holidays should any further changes occur.

As of now, we are intending that the school will be open on Friday, September 4th for our new Year 7 students. This has already been outlined in a letter to our new intake. Enrolment for the Sixth Form will also take place on this day between 10.00-14.00 for our new Year 12 students.

On Monday, September 7th the school will be open to Year 7, Year 11 and Year 12 students. All students are expected to be on the premises by 09.00 for a full school day.

On Tuesday, September 8th the school will be open for all students in Year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11, and again, all students will be expected to be present on site by 09.00 for a full school day.

On Wednesday, September 9th the school will be open for all students from Year 7- 13. Again, all students are expected to be present by 09.00 for a full school day.

Given the guidelines provided by the government, each year group should access the school using a different gate. Each year group will also be designated a particular playground which they will use at break time, lunch time and upon arrival. This information will be provided to students on their return.

From September, students will be taught in year group bubbles, in dedicated areas around the school. All student desks will face the front of the classroom, with the teacher remaining socially distant from the students. Since students may not have the opportunity to use dedicated rooms such as science laboratories, in some instances the curriculum content may have to be adjusted to facilitate this.

Trust Management Team: **Mr M Tissot** MA, MBA, NPQH **Mr J Martin** BA, MA

Head of School: **Mr C Gregory** BA, B.Phil, BD, MA

LANARK ROAD, LONDON, W9 1RB ✦ *Tel:* 020 7328 0904 ✦ *Fax:* 020 7624 6083

Email: office@stgeorgesrc.org ✦ Website: www.stgeorgesrc.org



Given the possible congestion on public transport, we are encouraging our students to cycle and walk to school where possible. We ask those who do so to do take particular care on the roads. It is advised that cyclists wear a face mask to reduce the impact of pollution and to ensure that a safety helmet is worn. Bicycles should be in a roadworthy condition and have a lock so that they may be stored securely on the school site. The school will not accept responsibility for bicycles stored on the school premises.

If you are planning to escort your child to school, we ask that you arrange to meet them at a place away from the school gates, to avoid any congestion in these areas.

Again, in line with the government guidance at this time, a strong emphasis will be placed on following the recommended hygiene practices. All students will be encouraged to regularly wash their hands/ use hand sanitisers and not to share any equipment such as pens or pencils etc. They must also continue to walk silently in corridors and to ensure that they observe appropriate distance when crossing over with other year groups as well as when queuing for toilets and other facilities. When using computers or changing desks, it will be protocol for them to wipe down the area beforehand using anti-bacterial wipes, which will be provided.

Food will no longer be available from the canteen at break time, so I would ask that parents ensure that they provide their child with something nutritious to eat. We will endeavour to ensure that students will have access to the canteen area at lunchtime. The arrangements for this are still being finalised, but, again, I would strongly encourage you to provide your child with nutritious food and a bottle of water, in a disposable bag, for lunch. Students will no longer have access to the drinking fountains, so please ensure that your child has sufficient water to remain hydrated during the school day.

If your child is displaying any symptoms of Covid-19, such as a cough, headache, increased temperature, loss of taste or smell or a new rash, it is your responsibility to ensure that they remain at home. Should any student exhibit any of these symptoms, they will be promptly sent home. It is imperative that the school is able to make contact with you, so please ensure that your contact details are fully up to date. The school undertakes to provide test and trace support so that your child and other members of your household can be tested quickly.

Government guidance states that children should take off any masks, visors or latex gloves on arrival into school. However, the school will permit students to wear a surgical face mask (this is the only type permitted) and latex gloves, should they choose to do so. The latest advice is that there is no need for anything other than normal personal hygiene and the daily washing of clothes to adhere with the advice provided by the government. It is expected, therefore, that all students comply to the usual school rules regarding the wearing of uniform.

Should the school request a meeting with you, it is likely that this will take place over an online medium rather than face to face, thus avoiding the risk of transmission.

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If anyone in your household is shielding or in the clinically vulnerable category, we would be grateful if you could pass this information on to the school, so that we can consider ways to ensure that additional precautions are put in place where possible. It is particularly important that you update the school if your child has any underlying medical conditions.

I apologise if this letter appears overly proscriptive, but we are very keen to ensure that all students return to our community at the beginning of the Autumn Term. As ever, I am confident that the strong partnership that we have come to rely on will extend into this particular time of challenge for us.

In the meantime, I hope that you will have a restful and peaceful summer break as we prepare to meet the challenges of the new term together.

Yours sincerely

Mr C Gregory

Head of School

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