



2 June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: COVID 19 – Year 10 Return to School

I hope you are keeping safe and well as the lockdown is slowly being relaxed. I would like to thank you for your continued work on home schooling while working from home in this difficult time.

As you are aware, we made extensive plans to return small numbers of Year 10 students over a 2 week period starting Monday 8 June. However, last week the government changed its guidelines again which are outlined below:

“From 15 June secondary schools are able to offer face to face support for a quarter of year 10 & 12 cohorts at any one time.”

“Any plans that secondary schools have made for pupils to return earlier in June should be amended to commence from 15 June.”

25 May 2020 by DfE

Alongside this latest announcement the government is asking secondary schools to:

- continue providing full-time provision for vulnerable pupils in all year groups (including Year 10 and Year 12)
- continue providing full-time provision for children of critical workers in all year groups (including Year 10 and Year 12)
- provide some face-to-face support to supplement the remote education of Year 10 and Year 12 pupils, with a clear expectation that remote education will continue to be the predominant form of education delivery for these year groups and that this should be of high quality

Having looked very carefully at the new guidelines and applied them to our individual setting at St Martins, we have put a new plan in place, which commences on Monday 15 June. It continues to follow all available guidelines and advice from the government and Essex County Council, putting the health and safety of all staff and students first.

Therefore, please note groups of Year 10 students will now start to return to school from Monday 15 June and not Monday 8 June.

The new structure from 15 June will be very similar in organisation to our previous letter dated 19 May. It will be based upon the house system involving each student attending on 5 separate days before the end of term, for lessons in English, maths and science. Students will also receive a contact call from their option subject teachers. This will give a chance to catch up on progress, set some more work and address any concerns students may have going forward.

More in depth detail will follow later this week from Mr Goddard and it is important to remember that all these arrangements are dependent upon any future amendments to government guidelines.

Below is a reminder of the measures being put in place to ensure the health and safety of all staff and students:

- Starting Monday 15 June in groups of no more than 12 per class, students will stay in the same room at the same desk for the whole session and the teacher will rotate to their classroom.
- Opportunity to meet with their tutor and pastoral team.
- There will be no refreshments available on site so students will need to bring their own.
- Separate areas will be used by each group to have mini breaks between lessons where needed to enable social distancing.
- To allow us to keep the areas being used clean and to be able to social distance adequately we are keeping the total number of students coming in on any day to a minimum.
- Hand sanitiser will be in each classroom and students will use them on entry and exit of the class.
- One way systems will be in place with social distancing applied.
- 2 metre markings will be on the floors in the corridors and will be used upon entry and exit into classes.
- Students will not be given handouts so will be able to use phones to capture important information.
- Separate entrances and exits to the building will be used by each class.
- Each class will have allocated toilets.
- There will be no school buses running during this time so students need to make their own way to and from school. To abide by social distancing measures please avoid public transport where possible.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your continued support of the school during this unprecedented situation.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Smyrk', written in a cursive style.

Ian Smyrk
Headteacher