

# St Monica's R.C. High School

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May 12<sup>th</sup> 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As I am sure you are aware, on Sunday evening the Prime Minister outlined his initial plan to move our country back to some level of normality. One of the challenges that schools face is how best to interpret what is said by the Government without any precise detail or guidance. Yesterday evening the Department for Education published guidance for schools that detailed the expectations for schools. The links to these documents are included for you below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-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>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

The Department for Education proposes that from June 1<sup>st</sup> secondary schools provide some level of face to face support for pupils in Year 10, as they will be sitting GCSE examinations next year. It is also made clear that this is expected to be on a part time basis. The guidance sets the parameters in school for sizes of class to allow for social distancing, routines that can be followed to ensure the safety and health of staff and pupils, and also outlines to parents and staff the rationale behind these decisions. Over the next week in school we will further plan how this can be facilitated so that Year 10 pupils can receive some in school provision. Please can Year 10 parents and pupils bear in mind that this will almost certainly be a different timetable and school day structure to what we have been used to, as the guidance makes clear that schools need to abide by guidelines to ensure the safety of all. The in-school experience will also need to be quite different; we will have to control movement at all times to minimise the risk of staff or pupils becoming ill. We will refine the planning we have done to facilitate this in the best way we can so Year 10 parents and pupils have time to prepare for some time in school prior to the summer break. I am sure I can count on your patience and support as we tackle this quite challenging process, and it may not be that Year 10 pupils return the week commencing June 1<sup>st</sup> as there remain many variables to consider. We will look to do what is right given the circumstances.

Alongside some level of return for Year 10 pupils in the coming weeks, school will remain open for pupils of parents who have evidence of being Key Workers. Please continue to use the [keyworker@stmonicas.co.uk](mailto:keyworker@stmonicas.co.uk) if you have no other choice but to send your child into school. Please can I ask that you provide as much notice as possible. We continue to insist on the highest standards of behaviour for pupils when they are in school.

I will continue to update you over the course of this week on our on-going plans in school. Thank you for your kind words of support during this difficult time. Our priority currently remains the safety and well-being of every member of our school community.

Please stay safe and well, and I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Yours faithfully

Mr C Foley

Headteacher

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