



ST MARGARET WARD CATHOLIC ACADEMY



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Principal: Mr. D. McKenna B.Soc.Sc. MA. PGCE. NPQH.

01Z/SchoolUpdate/DM/EP

Friday 15th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I wanted to write to you today following the Prime Minister and Government's announcements over the past week and provide you with a sense of what our approach may look like over the coming weeks with all the information we have to date.

Firstly, on behalf of my colleagues, I want to say how enormously grateful we are for your ongoing support since *Monday 23rd March* when the lockdown began. It has not been easy for you, and I recognise the huge commitment you have made to support your child's continued education albeit in a very challenging context.

Unfortunately, it looks set to continue for some weeks if not months ahead. I am sure you have watched developments over the last few days and will have attempted to interpret the Government's announcements and how it affects your child's education.

The following points are relevant:

- **No year group** is returning to school before 1st June.
- Some primary school students will return first, this is likely to be on 1st June, but only if the Government judges this safe and appropriate.
- **Year 7, 8 and 9 students** will not return to school before September according to current information.
- **Year 10 and 12 students** may return before the summer break for some face-to-face support to complement their online education, but not in a full-time capacity and not as an entire year group at the same time. There is no firm date as to when that will happen, and it will be dependent on the safety of the students and staff.
- The definition of key worker has not changed but will be reviewed by Government on 31st May.

It is a very unsettling time for us all, but rest assured that we are doing everything we can to make sure we are ready to receive Year 10 and Year 12 students as and when it is safe for St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy to reopen. We will be contacting Year 10 and Year 12 parents initially to advise of these arrangements in due course and to find out how many students may want to attend school.

If you require this information in a different format, please contact the school.



A separate letter from Mr Johnson will be sent to the parents or carers of Year 10 and 12 students; we would be very grateful if you would take the time to respond to this to help us in our planning.

I want to reassure you that we are not going to be pressuring any pupil to come into school. We will keep you updated with all our preparations for making sure the school is as safe as possible, so you and your child can make an informed decision about whether to attend.

If your child is clinically extremely vulnerable, or living with someone who is in this group, they should not come back to school and should continue home learning. If your child is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), you should follow medical advice to decide if they should come back to school. Please refer to government guidance for further details of these groups.

We will receive further guidance about what happens in September in the months to come based upon events. The most recent advice for parents can be found here.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

In the meantime, online learning continues via Microsoft SharePoint

<https://smwca.sharepoint.com/sites/HomeStudy> and the school is still open only for vulnerable pupils and the children of critical workers.

We know some employers will be encouraging you to return to work, but we are not in a position right now to extend places to other students until we receive further government guidance.

If you have any questions, please contact the Main Office on office@smwca.org.uk

Yours Sincerely,



Mr D McKenna
Principal

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