



9th October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Whole School Update

I would like to thank all of those parents that have got in touch with either myself, our Senior Leadership Team or the individual teachers themselves to commend them on the quality of their remote lessons and to pass on thanks. I know first-hand that given the amount of planning and effort staff have put in, this small gesture goes a long way.

Firstly, I would like to apologise that this has taken so long to communicate to parents, as we have been waiting for Public Health England to get back to school. Due to a child testing positive in Year 11, 10 and 9 **whilst** students have been self-isolating it is necessary to extend the self-isolation period due to a change to the last date of contact with an infectious case. This will therefore mean a delay in the return to school. There is no change for Year 8 or 7. Our staff are extremely excited to welcome back all our students. The new self-isolation period and dates for return are:

Year 11

- All of **Year 11** have an extended self-isolation period to finish on Tuesday 13th October and **return to school on Wednesday 14th October**

Year 10

- **Small group of Year 10** who were sent home from school on Friday 25th September: no change, students can **return to school on 12th October**. Should parents wish, their child may instead return with the whole Year group on Thursday 15th October (please let Mrs Hanley know c.hanley@stjameschadle.co.uk)
- **The whole Year 10 bubble** who were sent home from school on Wednesday 30th September: extended self-isolation period to finish on Wednesday 14th October and **return to school on Thursday 15th October**

Year 9

- **Small group of Year 9** who were sent home from school on Tuesday 29th September: no change, students can **return to school on 14th October**. Should parents wish, their child may instead return with the whole Year group on Friday 16th October (please let Mrs Hanley know c.hanley@stjameschadle.co.uk)
- **The whole Year 9 bubble** who were sent home from school on Thursday 1st October: extended self-isolation period to finish on Thursday 15th October and **return to school on Friday 16th October**

Year 8

- **Small group of Year 8:** no change. **Return to school on Monday 12th October**

Year 7

- **Small group of Year 7:** no change. **Return to school on Friday 16th October**

Zoom lessons have been taking place for those Year groups that have been isolating and this has allowed students to continue with their studies at home to reduce any impact on their progress and learning. Following discussions with Public Health England, we recognise that this may be a repeating pattern of full Year groups or smaller groups of students needing to isolate over the coming months. We therefore wish to ensure that we are able to provide as authentic a learning experience as possible for those students who are unable to be in school.



ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

From Monday of next week the group of Year 7 students who are currently isolating will be able to join the classroom virtually through Zoom. The teachers of those Year 7 classes in which students are self-isolating will add their Zoom codes to Show My Homework and the students can then join the lesson where they will have a view of the interactive whiteboard and will be able to hear the class teacher's instructions. They should then follow the work being completed by the class and carry out homework tasks as per Show My Homework.

This remote learning is currently only possible for the aforementioned students, but we hope to roll this out after half term in the eventuality of other groups needing to isolate. Should your son/daughter have any technical issues relating to Zoom, they should contact one of our IT technicians Mr Millar t.millar@stjamesheadle.co.uk. For any other issues relating to remote learning, please contact Mrs Pickles c.pickles@stjamesheadle.co.uk

As part of their home learning, students may require access to Word Processing and Spreadsheet software, particularly in Year 10 and 11 if they study BTEC DIT as one of their options. We have Office 365 licences available for pupils to use if you do not currently have access to this software on your laptop or PC. Please email t.millar@stjamesheadle.co.uk if you require any assistance.

To keep as many children in school as possible it is essential that you do not send your child into school if they are unwell. If they or any members of their household have any of the symptoms listed below, please do not send them into school and book a test and inform school of the result:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

As all our students return, I would like to remind you about the importance of high standards of behaviour and uniform expected, both within school and on the way to and from school:

- On the way to or from school: students need to be calm, respectful and aware of their own safety if walking or cycling to school. We do not encourage you to send your child to school on the bus however, if your child gets a school or public bus, they need to remain seated, wear a face covering for the entire journey and sit next to someone from their own Year group bubble
- Expectations within school: as always, we expect the highest standards of behaviour and punctuality from students in school. All students recently received a Year group assembly reminding them of expectations on hair, uniform, shoes and mobile phones. Students must wear a face covering in communal areas, unless they are exempt, to keep them and members of our St James' family safe. We appreciate the support for our policies from all our parents and carers. Further guidance on expectations can be found at <http://www.stjamesheadle.co.uk/uniform/>

Once again please keep the whole St James' family in your prayers; those affected by the Coronavirus directly who are unwell, those who are self-isolating and again for all of the staff at St James' who continue to do their very best for your children.

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex