



In all things faithful

2nd September

Dear parents/carers,

Re: Some updates regarding safely returning to school

Firstly, all staff returned safely to St Damian's and are looking forward to pupils returning to school this week. The following outlines some of the changes and instructions that will ensure the safety of pupils and staff in the coming weeks.

- *First Day in school.* Years 7 & 11 will start school full-time **Thursday 3rd** September onwards. Years Y8, Y9 & Y10 will start school full-time **Friday 4th** September.
- *Pupil entry to school.* To ensure appropriate social distancing, pupils will enter the school by various routes. The table below outlines the entry points for each of the Year groups. Please ensure that you share these with your child/children. Pupils should not arrive at school before 8.40am and all pupils need to be in school for the start of the day at 9am.

Year	Entry Point	Learning Zone	Waiting area before school [8.40am onwards]
7	Green gate by Car Park	RE	Main Hall
8	Green gate by Car Park	MFL / Geography	Playground
9	Green gate by Car Park	English	Spanish Steps
10	Green gate by Sports Hall	Science / History	Science Garden
11	Reception	Maths	Maths Area

- *Learning Zones.* As stated in previous correspondence, pupils will be allocated zones in order to ensure there is less chance of mixing with other groups. The table above shows the zones allocated to each Year group. Again, please share this with your child/children.
- *Form Group.* Pupils will be unsure which Form Class they will be in as we have had to make significant changes to all these. This information will be on pupil timetables which are available today on the parent portal. Please ensure that your child knows which **form group & form room** they will be in *before* arriving at school. At 9am, pupils will move promptly from the designated waiting area to the correct form room. As stated before KS3 pupils will be taught in Form Groups and KS4 pupils will be taught in subject groupings / sets.

Some reminders...

- We are now a *cashless school* and parents top up their child's dinner money account through SIMS Pay. All purchases from school must be made via SIMS Pay [includes: Ties, Revision Guides, Water Bottles, Calculators]
- *School buses* are running as normal. A reminder that pupils must wear a face mask on the school bus as they have to do on all public transport. When boarding the bus please ensure your child has the correct money, or a daily/weekly ticket or a bus pass and pupils are requested to fill the

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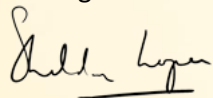
seats from the back. Pupils should remain in their seats until they reach their destination and take any rubbish with them when they leave the bus. Can I ask that you speak to your child about the importance of good behaviour on the bus.

- *Behaviour expectations:* Pupils are expected to follow St Damian's 5 simple rules. Additional guidelines and changes to the behaviour system will be explained to pupils during form time. Updated Behaviour & Learning Ethos policies will be available to view on the website next week. As a school great behaviour and a positive attitude to learning is fundamental to our success.
- *After school detentions* will operate from Monday 8th September. These will be from 3.15 until 4 o'clock. It is expected that the majority of children will not be put in detention but as a school we always give 24 hours' notice. However, as Headteacher, I do not have to give any notice, but I will endeavour to contact you if I keep a child the same night. Additionally, after school detentions are not optional and are part of our behavioural sanction.
- *Uniform.* We pride ourselves on our high expectations and uniform standards. Guidance states that *"Uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned using methods which are different from normal"*. It is my expectation that all pupils return in full uniform, including having full PE kit. Please also remind your child to bring a face covering. This is now a compulsory part of school uniform. [Please see letter dated 28.8.20 for further details]. Face masks are also part of the uniform and I ask that masks are plain. Further information on what is acceptable will follow in due course.
- *Safety.* Detailed planning is in place to ensure that your child has a safe return to school. Safety measures will be explained to pupils on their first day in school. Pupils are expected to act in a mature and responsible manner with regards to safety and hygiene.

I know that the above information seems a lot, but this is to ensure clear communication during these challenging and unprecedented times and that all stakeholders; pupils, staff and parents understand these.

Finally, as Headteacher, I want to again thank all the parents for their tremendous support since March. The multitude of positive comments have been acknowledged by my staff and are much appreciated. Working together to ensure a first-class education is a sure way of continued success. I understand that you may be apprehensive about the coming weeks, but the Senior leadership and the governors of the school have worked tirelessly over the past few months to ensure that St Damian's continues to be a safe environment for your children. Looking forward to a highly successful year.

Mr Logue



Headteacher