



Friday 12th June
In all things faithful

Re: Information for parents/carers of Year 10

Dear Parents and Carers,

Brief update on school re-opening for Year 10 pupils

During the week beginning 1st June, after the announcement by the Government to open for Year 10 pupils, the Senior Leadership Team worked on a comprehensive plan to re-open safely. This plan was then going to be delivered to staff week commencing 8th June, ready for pupils to return on Monday 15th June, albeit in a reduced manner. Unfortunately, as I said in the most recent correspondence, I received an e-mail/letter late on Friday 5th June from the local Public Health Authority and these plans have had to be 'put on hold'. At the time of writing the plan is to re-open on the 22nd June BUT it is possible, indeed likely, that I may get another letter/email from Public Health authorities to advise against re-opening. This is a real and distinct possibility and therefore parents need to be mindful of this possibility.

Re: Re-opening of school for Year 10 pupils from 22nd June

Following on from previous correspondence regarding the re-opening the school for Year 10s, I am now in a position to give more details and guidance. As I have said before, my staff are keen to welcome back pupils, but this must be done in a coherent, planned and most importantly, a safe manner. The following St Damian's plans are based on National government guidance.

Parental responses to message sent Monday 1st June

Firstly, on Monday 1st June, I sent a message with regards to whether you would send your child back to school. This was a simple question, would your child return to school or not? A reminder was sent on Wednesday 3rd June, with the caveat that if you didn't reply by 3pm then I would make an assumption that your response would be a 'no'. I needed definite numbers as I need to plan which, due to safety issues, is extremely complex. The response was that over 130 said yes.

Thank you to the parents that replied. As expected, I envisaged that some parents may be reluctant to send their children back to school at the present time. The reality is that there is a new virus and you may ask the question, "is it safe?". The simple response to this is that there will never be no risk. The Covid-19 remains present. As a school community, it's about how we reduce that risk, just as we do with every other school activity, for example, field trips.

What are we doing to ensure the safety of your children?

As Headteacher, my first priority is, and always has been, the safeguarding of the whole St Damian's community, which includes both pupils and staff. In the case of re-opening, it is absolutely essential that government guidelines are maintained whilst at home, travelling to and from school and when in school. Therefore, we are putting procedures in place to ensure that all the guidance has been followed and was central to our decision-making. This includes the following:

- Robust and thorough risk assessments have been completed
- This risk assessment is available on-line for your perusal
- Small group attendance of pupils to, for example, maintain adequate social distancing
- Reduced staff attendance to, for example, minimise contact with others
- Key messages will be implemented for pupils, staff and parents [These will be on the school website]
- Educating pupils on 'key messages', for example, the importance of hygiene

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Headteacher

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St. Damian's RC Science College

- Regular cleaning throughout the day
- Sanitisers are available throughout the school to support personal hygiene
- A one-way system has been implemented within the school
- Signage is around the school to ensure, for example, social distancing
- All of the above is taken with advice from the Local Authority and National guidance

Outline of the plan for Year 10 pupils

This now leads me to the plan for Year 10 pupils. The guidance says a maximum of 25% of pupils of the Year group. The implication of this is that pupils will not be coming back together on a daily basis but on a rota system. In the case of St Damian’s this will equate to one day per week to accommodate all pupils. Below is an outline of the plan, taking into consideration all the different aspects of Health and Safety such as social distancing.

- Pupils should arrive in school no sooner than **8.50am** and will be directed to a meeting point
- At 9am they will be escorted to a room which will be **their base**
- Pupils will be allocated **one day each week** to come into school for face-to-face interaction
- This will be **fixed** until the summer holidays
- Pupils will be allocated to a **group** [see table below]
- There will be **three** groups of Year 10 pupils in school each day [In total there will be 12 groups]
- There will be a maximum **number** of pupils in these groups
- There will be **staggered** breaks/lunches
- Pupils will **not be in contact** with other groups
- Pupils will be **allocated a room** as a base and will be there all day
- The curriculum and method of delivery will **not be ‘normal’**
- Pupils should bring their **own pencil case**
- Pupils should bring **their books** for English, Maths, Science & Religious Education
- Pupils should be in **full school uniform**

Groups are currently being allocated and you will be informed via text this week which group your child is allocated to. The 12 groups will be as follows

Monday Group 1	Monday Group 2	Monday Group 3
Tuesday Group 1	Tuesday Group 2	Tuesday Group 3
Wednesday Group 1	Wednesday Group 2	Wednesday Group 3
Thursday Group 1	Thursday Group 2	Thursday Group 3

It is important that pupils know which group they are in as when they enter the school grounds, they will be allocated a meeting point which will be explained when the pupil arrives at the school gates. They must go straight to the meeting point.

The above details are correct at the time of writing but, as you will appreciate, this is a fast-changing scenario and I reserve the right to change the above, even at very short notice, subject to new guidelines or advice from National Government.

Expectations

As I hope you will appreciate, this is not a ‘normal’ situation. I have to make it clear that there will be massive differences between what pupils will experience now and what they experienced before. This face to face interaction will focus on **a]** supporting remote learning which is likely to be the predominant mode of teaching for the next few months *at least* as well as **b]** some pastoral support.

Year 10 and remote learning

Although the above are plans to ensure an element of face to face interaction it is important to note that the main delivery of teaching continues to be remote learning, mostly through Teams. It is fundamental that parents understand this and continue to ensure that their children are working hard at home on Teams. Until I am informed otherwise, pupils will have to prepare, and therefore learn all the content on the GCSE specifications and sit exams next summer.

Update on buses

We have been in contact with Transport for Greater Manchester and they have confirmed that the school bus service will resume from the 22nd June. However, strict social distancing rules will be in place. Pupils are requested to fill seats from the back of the bus first to minimise contact with others, while adhering to social distancing guidance. Seats will be blocked off to ensure social distancing takes place and pupils not adhering to the rules could find themselves being asked to get off the bus. I ask that as a parent that if your child is on the school bus that they conform to these rules and you support the school in this simple request. Look out for the guidance as face masks/coverings may be needed to travel on public transport.

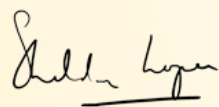
Expectations of pupil behaviour

St Damian's is renowned for its high standards in all aspects. We take great pride in this and this is because of the excellent relationship that we have developed with parents. At this time, I ask that you ensure that pupils continue to display the excellent attitude that they displayed before the lockdown. Whilst expectations in our Behaviour Policy remain pertinent, I would like to highlight some 'new' aspects. This includes social distancing and ensuring appropriate personal hygiene routines. As Headteacher I have always been very proud of the respect shown by our pupils when the 'chips are down'. In times like these it is important to note that if the health and safety of other pupils and staff are put at risk by a pupil not adhering to social distancing measures, then the parent/carer will be expected to collect the pupil and a fixed term exclusion, at my discretion, may be applied. I do not want this to happen but will not hesitate to do so.

At this point can I also ensure that our 5 simple rules will also be enforced. Briefly these are **1] Correct school uniform 2] No mobile phones 3] No chewing gum 4] Eating only in designated places and most importantly, 5] Show respect to all.**

Finally, and I say this with a heavy heart, the current situation dictates that no school in the country will be able to return to 'normal' for the foreseeable future, but I hope that the information within this letter is helpful and reassuring.

Take care and God Bless



Mr Logue
Headteacher