



BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

18th May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

We hope that you and your families are continuing to remain safe and well.

As you will no doubt be aware, early last week the government published guidance about plans to welcome more students back to school after half term. As part of the plan, it was announced that secondary schools could potentially start to reopen from 1st June (**at the very earliest**) prioritising **Year 10 and 12**. More specifically, we have been asked to offer some face-to-face support to supplement the remote education of Year 10 and Year 12 students.

Whilst we continue our detailed and careful preparations for reopening to Year 10 and 12 students we must be mindful of a number of parameters that are beyond our control. These parameters may affect our own school's plans at short notice. The Government themselves have stated that they will only proceed to reopen schools if certain conditions are met (e.g. concerning health data and the current "R" value); we expect them to make that decision on May 28th. We also anticipate further guidance this week from the Department for Education (DfE) specifically relating to secondary schools as well as support from the Diocese and Local Authority. All of this means we are not yet in a position to provide absolute clarity on how we will begin to open the school again to students in Year 10 and 12.

We appreciate you may have lots of questions and detailed guidance for parents (published by the DfE) can be found via this link:

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

The school will be providing further information from the week commencing 1st June in relation to opening for Year 10 and 12 students; we thank you for your ongoing patience. In all of this, please be assured that the well-being of our students and staff is – and will remain – our primary concern.

Until further notice, arrangements remain the same as in previous weeks and school continues to be closed except for children of key workers and vulnerable children. We will continue to provide home learning for all other students.

Sincere thanks to all our staff who have been working hard during this time and to our parents/ carers who have supported our students with their learning. It is very much appreciated.

Principal - Dr J Coughlan

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Key workers Update

The school remains open to key worker families and this provision will also be available throughout half term including the Bank Holiday.

If you are a key worker whose **circumstances have changed** (or will change post half-term) meaning you will now need to start sending your children to school on a more regular basis, please contact us as soon as possible via keyworker@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk

We will continue to provide updates by text, email, school website and via social media platforms. At the end of this week we will also be publishing year group newsletters.

Can I also take the opportunity to again thank parents and carers for their support across this half term in what have been challenging circumstances for us all. For those within our community experiencing any illness at this time, you remain in our thoughts and prayers.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Coughlan'.

Dr J Coughlan
Principal