



St. Cuthbert's
Roman Catholic High School

July 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

I cannot tell you how much we have missed working with your sons and daughters over the past few months. We have of course been open to children of key workers and more recently to many of our year 10 students, but St Cuthbert's has certainly not felt anything like it used to during this period. I know this has been an incredibly challenging time for you all and there has been some loss in our community. I am hoping that we can now begin to move forward again as a community and begin to help the students at St Cuthbert's to be happy and successful.

I am therefore delighted to be able to welcome back all of our students in September. I know some of you will be very worried about sending your children back to school. I am a parent myself and I understand that concern. It is however true that the benefits of sending your children back to school in September far outweigh the risks.

- School has been open safely for students since the lockdown began in March. We have had students and staff in every day including during the holidays. We have had absolutely no issues with anyone's health.
- The school has a Covid 19 risk assessment in place (see our website) which explains exactly how we are keeping everyone safe at this time.
- The government now has a Track and Trace system in operation, which would tell us quickly if there was a potential concern so we could take the required actions to make everyone safe.
- School is vital for the education and well-being of young people. Their future ability to learn, their career prospects and their happiness are all linked to attending school and following the curriculum. While remote lessons and work does make some distance learning possible, it is no substitute at all for being in school with teachers.
- There is of course a very low risk to children of being affected by Covid 19. Statistically they are by some distance the least affected and safest group.

In September there will of course be some significant changes to how school has operated in the past. There are very clear guidelines and legal requirements we must have in place when we re-open to everyone. These measures are of course temporary but what I cannot say is when they will end. The key temporary measures we have in place are as follows:

- Students will be placed into year group bubbles to reduce contact as much as is possible with other year groups.
- These bubbles will have their own designated classrooms, breaktimes, lunchtimes, social areas and entry/exit points to the school site.
- All students will be expected to apply hand sanitiser upon entry to the site and to classrooms.



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- Students using public transport need to wear face masks. These masks must be removed before entering the site as they cannot be worn in school. Students will also need to sit in designated areas on buses and all of this will be explained when they return in September.
- There will be limited choices for lunch though these do still include hot meal options. The prices have increased now to £2.30 and we are using parent pay for this as obviously we cannot be handling cash etc (please see attached parent pay leaflet if you need to set up an account).
- Food will not be available at breaktime so students must bring their own if they wish to have anything at that time. Toast will be made available between 9-10 am in classrooms to anyone who wants it.
- If anyone displays any Covid 19 symptoms they will be isolated immediately and sent home as soon as possible. Students would not be allowed to return until they had undertaken a test, which showed they were negative or until a 14-day self-isolation period had elapsed.
- The school will have several new behaviour rules in place aimed to protect everyone. There will be a zero tolerance approach to anyone, who breaks those rules and puts anyone else at risk.

We do not expect all of our students to suddenly be able to follow the new rules without detailed explanations and demonstrations. We are therefore having 2 induction days for students where all of this will be addressed.

- Thursday 3rd September – all year 7 & year 11 students **must attend** for induction. Students in years 8, 9 & 10 **must not attend** on this date.
- Friday 4th September – all year 8, 9, & 10 students **must attend** for induction. Students in years 7 & 11 **must not attend** on this date.
- Monday 7th September – all students to attend and follow the rules as explained on their induction day.

On each school day including the induction days, school will start and finish at the same time as before, 8.25am and 2.50pm and bus services will run as normal.

Please note that all of this is subject to change. There have been lots of changes to the legislation and guidance already and this continues to be the case. If there are changes, we will have to implement those changes and that may result in something different to what I have said here. Please bear with us on that as we have no control over these changes.

I wish you all a wonderful summer and look forward to starting back in September as a full school community.

D. Shields
Headteacher