



13th July 2020

Parents' Update

This update contains information about the arrangement for September for all pupils and arrangements Year 11 results in August.

Arrangements for September 2020

Key Points for parents:

- **Pupils to remain in one area of school as much as possible**
- **Year groups will start term gradually over the first week**
- **School will finish between 2.05 and 2.20 each day**
- **The mixed year group College system is to be suspended**
- **A new Home School Agreement for Covid-19 is introduced**

I want to provide you with update on how school will be organised from September. Of course everything is conditional on further government guidance, possible local lockdowns and many other things that can occur between now and then.

From September, there will be some clear changes from normal school. The balance is to maintain effective control measures to restrict the spread of the virus, whilst delivering high quality education with a full curriculum offer.

The timetable will operate as normal but year groups will be grouped together throughout the day in a 'bubble'. They will then be allocated an area where they will be based. Teachers will have to move between classrooms according to the timetable, remaining at least two metres apart from pupils. This is important because in the event of a positive test for a pupil, the teacher will not need to self-isolate for 14 days if they have not have 'close contact' with that pupil. This approach is in line with the public health guidance and allows pupils to be taught by subject specialist teachers. However, to ensure that movement between classrooms is reduced, all classes in Years 7 and 8 will be organised in their basic sets for all their subjects. There are some differences for Year 9 classes where they will keep their English, maths and science sets. These classes will not necessarily have access to specialist rooms.



In key stage 4, the class sets will be as they are now and they will break out to access specialist rooms for practical subjects. Again, they will follow their timetable but will be based mainly in one area of school.

The school has invested in additional IT devices to ensure that each zone of the school has enhanced access to IT.

There will be no prep groups or assemblies and **each day will follow the timings of Tuesday with a split lunch and finish between 2.05 and 2.20pm.** However, as is the case now on Tuesdays, this will not reduce the teaching time for pupils. We will also need to operate splits breaks.

There will be a separate update in due course on the arrangements for lunches and transport.

Because pupils will be organised in year groups and with the need to keep them separate from other 'bubbles' as far as possible, **we will suspend the mixed year groups colleges and pastoral system.** Instead, college leaders will be assigned to a year group:

Year 7	Mrs Houston	Mrs Shannon
Year 8	Mrs Donlon	Ms Whitaker
Year 9	Mr Walsh	Mrs Lingard
Year 10	Mrs Bilsborough	Mrs Wilson
Year 11	Mr Bielby	Mrs Jose

The school's new routines and procedures mean we will be bringing pupils back to school gradually of the first week. Please see the table below for details:

Tuesday 1 st September	Year 7
Wednesday 2 nd September	Year 7 and 11
Thursday 3 rd September	Year 7, 11 and 10
Friday 4 th September	Year 7, 11, 10, 8 and 9
Monday 7 th September	All Year groups

I want to get pupils back into school as quickly as possible, but it would be extremely challenging to receive all year groups back at once and successfully introduce the new systems to all pupils.

In order for the staff to establish the new routines with pupils, any phone calls to parents and carers will be arranged after the end of the school day and we are asking parents to not come to the school without prior arrangement. Face to face meetings will only be in exceptional circumstances.



We have drafted a **new home school agreement specifically for Covid-19** to clarify the roles and expectations. This does not replace the existing agreement that parents have signed, but sits alongside it and reflects the particular circumstances.

GCSE exam results

It is very unfortunate that Year 11 will not be able to come to school to collect their results and celebrate their hard work at St Bede's. However, we must act responsibly and follow the public health advice and work together to reduce the spread of the virus.

All Year 11 pupils have now been issued with a school email and details of these are being sent to them via a text to parents. Results will be sent on the morning of Thursday 20th August via the email and will be followed up with a hard copy in the post. The email will also include additional information for Year 11 on the appeals process and the option of sitting their exams in November if they choose to.

I want to thank you for your continued support of school and of your children during this very difficult and challenging time and look forward to welcoming back all our pupils in September.

D Callaghan
Headteacher