



19<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I wanted to provide an update from school to hopefully offer some clarity at a time when we are all being bombarded with much speculation about the future.

Firstly, I want to thank you for your continued support of school and of your children during the lockdown when school has been closed for most pupils. I fully appreciate how challenging it can be to keep children motivated and to maintain healthy routines over such a long period of time. Many have had to do this while juggling the demands of work and access to online devices.

From next week, we are asking Year 9 pupils to concentrate on the subjects they will be studying next September at key stage 4. These subjects will be, English, maths, science, RE and the three other options subjects they have chosen. However, because of issues with the software, homework for all subjects will still appear in Show My Homework but pupils should complete their selected key stage 4 subjects only.

In accordance with government guidelines and advice from the local director of public health, we will be opening to Year 10 pupils from next Monday for an initial meeting with their tutors where we will outline the plans for the rest of the year and get feedback on any issues with remote learning. We are required to only have 25 % of the year group in on one day (this is about 50 pupils), and maintain stringent social distancing and hygiene. After this round of meetings, we plan for there to be some teaching for Year 10 in English, maths and science until the end of the year. However, the main form of learning remains the remote learning set by teachers. Year 10 parents should have received more detailed information about this separately.

Sadly, it is now clear that Years 7-9 will not be able to attend school before September, at the earliest. I am very disappointed about this but we have to follow the government guidance. How schools will function in September will depend on the requirements of social distancing but even if the ruling is relaxed to one metre, this will only allow a reduced number of pupils to attend at one time. I hope to be able to provide more clarity in July.

It is also clear that events such as the Year 11 Leavers' Ball will not be able to take place. I know this will be a major disappointment for many pupils and parents, even when we have become accustomed to major events across the world being cancelled. We are continuing to look at how we might celebrate the time Year 11 spent at St Bede's.

Another change we have had to make is to send Year 11 results out by post, rather than the traditional results day. We are ensuring that colleges and post 16 providers make adjustments to their enrolment procedures to take into account the fact that not all pupils may have received their results on the morning of Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> August.



## Uniform

As with so many things, purchasing schools uniform will be more challenging this year. The school's uniform suppliers have made arrangements so that they can sell uniform safely; this includes an appointment system. You can book the appointment through the link on the school's website: <http://www.stbedesblackburn.com/uniform/>

## Year 6 Transition

In normal times, we would be preparing for the three induction days for Year 6 moving on to St Bede's. We will soon be sending out information packs and putting extra resources on the website with information for parents. Parents of Year 6 children will receive further information about this shortly.

## Contact with school

This week we will be beginning a further round of welfare phone calls from Heads of College to all parents to support families where we can. This is an opportunity for you to raise any concerns or questions. Parents can also contact school through the email address [contact@stbedesblackburn.com](mailto:contact@stbedesblackburn.com)

Meanwhile, we have been preparing the school to ensure the environment is as safe as it can be. Detailed risk assessments have been completed.

We really hope that we will be permitted to welcome all pupils back to school as soon as possible but I appreciate your patience and your resilience in how you are supporting your children in these strangest of times.

Yours sincerely

D Callaghan  
Headteacher