

12 June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Reopening of School for Year 10 and Year 12

Thank you for recently responding to our survey to indicate whether your son/daughter In Year 10 or 12 would be attending school from the 15th June 2020. I am writing this letter to communicate clearly the plans we have established as a Leadership Team for the safe return of these key Year groups in line with our values of love, hope and trust.

Year 10 and 12 will be returning for an induction session to support their wellbeing and a supportive transition back into school life. We know that both you and they will be anticipating what school life will be like so we went to use this letter to reassure you that school is a safe and purposeful place for all students.

Year 10

- Students who have requested a place have been split into two groups for their induction. Students in each group have received an invitation to attend their induction day on **either** Tuesday 16th June or Wednesday 17th June, between 9:40am and 12:40pm.
- From 22nd onwards, one group will attend the Academy Mondays and Tuesdays and the other Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Again, parents have been called and texted according to which group a student in Year 10 has been placed in. Students should arrive at 9:40am and leave at 12:40pm. We have designed a rota to support students with some face to face learning and support to access their home learning timetable.

If you have not received a call and a text confirming your child's place, then your child must not come to school next week.

Year 12

- Students who have requested a place been split into two groups for their induction. Students in each group have received an invitation to attend their induction day on **either** Monday 15th June and Friday 19th June between 12:00pm and 2:00pm.
- From 22nd onwards, Sixth Form students in Year 12 will attend the Academy Mondays to Wednesday every week. students should arrive at 11:30am and leave at 2:00pm.

Principal Lisa Peterkin



We continue to offer our core provision and have staggered the start times to ensure that we adhere to safety guidelines. Please also be assured that we are doing everything we possibly can to implement safety measures outlined in the guidance to ensure that our provision is a safe one with effective protective measures. Over the coming weeks, we'll be finalising a detailed plan to make sure we can safely welcome these year groups back, if it's safe for us to start the phased reopening of the school then.

Precautions we will be taking include:

- Limiting class sizes
- Staggering break times, and pick-up and drop-off times
- Increased cleaning
- Bubbles in place for each of the groups listed above
- Keeping pupils and staff with coronavirus symptoms at home

The health and safety and wellbeing of our students, staff and parents are of paramount importance. We are doing our best to ensure that your child's experience at school meets their academic and mental health needs, whilst ensuring health and safety expectations are appropriately planned for and adhered to by the entire St Marks family.

Should you wish to send your child back to the Academy to access face to face support please do not send your them into school unless this has been approved. To seek approval please email Mr Hampton at hampton@stmarksacademy.org.uk. You will receive confirmation from Mr Hampton or a member of the leadership team to confirm your child's start date. I would strongly recommend you take some time to read the [latest government updates](#) and also the role you perform as parents to best support your child at school.

Year 10 and year 12 will not be expected to attend school until the 15th June, there will be significant restrictions to students attending and this will again be further clarified in our future correspondence, which we hope will be within the next week.

If your child is clinically extremely vulnerable, or living with someone who is in this group, they should not come back to school and should continue home learning. If your child is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), you should follow medical advice to decide if they should come back to school. Please refer to [government guidance](#) for further details of these groups.

If you have any concerns about the wellbeing or safety of a child, please contact the school or email the designated safeguarding lead dsl@stmarksacademy.org.uk. If a child is in immediate danger, please call emergency services on 999.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for continuing to support your child with their home learning experience. The aims of this provision are to equip your son or daughter with important knowledge and skills, such as;

- Important knowledge for subjects they study
- Enhance key skills such as time management and independent learning
- Increase use of virtual formats to aid educational learning

We really welcome your feedback so please continue to use the home learning email for any queries, we have dedicated senior leaders responding to this regularly during the school week. I would like to continue to stress the importance of your child engaging with home learning whilst ensuring safety and mental health and wellbeing are of utmost importance.

Please be reminded that in the meantime, the school is still open **only** for vulnerable pupils and the children of critical workers. Until we are told it's safe to do so, we are unable to provide places for other children.

I appreciate the challenges of the international pandemic and ask that you continue to take time to stay safe and be well, please feel free to visit our [health & well-being page](#) to support you and your families during these challenging times.

With Love, Hope and Trust



Lisa Peterkin
Principal

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