



“it is not enough for children to be loved,
they must know that they are loved”

#Believe And Achieve

Wednesday 26 August 2020

Dear Year 7 Parents/Carers

Welcoming your child to St John Bosco College in September 2020

I would like to begin by welcoming you and your child to St John Bosco College and look forward to them joining us on **Friday 4 September 2020** (at 8.50 am or 9.10 am – see below). I hope that you and your families have had a good Summer despite the challenges and uncertainties that the pandemic has brought to us all. I am pleased to say that despite the negative press coverage about exam results our Year 11 and Year 13 students did exceptionally well and will be moving on to Sixth Form and university with excellent grades behind them.

When I wrote to you back in July, I explained that we would wait until the end of August before confirming our plans for the return of students to school in September. I appreciate that this delay has not been ideal, but we wanted to ensure that we could confidently proceed in the light of ever-changing government advice. As you will no doubt be aware from recent media coverage, the government appears to be committed to all students to be able to return to school in the coming weeks and we are very glad that this is the case.

As I said in my July letter, we are implementing a phased return to school for all our students. It will be done in this way to ensure that we can reintegrate each year group successfully and safely back into school life following the extensive lockdown period. I believe that it is safer that we build up to having everyone back on site in stages so that students are clear about the new expectations and ways of working that we are putting in place to ensure everyone’s safety.

As you will see from the table below Year 7 students will start on Friday 4 September 2020 and will have two full days of induction before spending three days working online, from home, while we reintegrate the children in other year groups back to school.

Please note the start and finish times closely as we have to ensure staggered start and finish times to reduce the amount of contact between students of different year groups. We will also stagger the start of the induction day on 4 September 2020. If your child’s surname begins with A-L, please ensure that they arrive for 8.50 am. If their surname starts with M-Z, please ensure they arrive at 9.10 am. The ‘normal’ start and finish times for your child will be the times down for Tuesday 15 September 2020 until further notice. We will review these every 3 weeks.

	Friday 04/07/2020	Monday 07/09/2020	Tuesday 08/09/2020	Wednesday 09/09/2020	Thursday 10/09/2020	Friday 11/09/2020	Monday 14/09/2020	Tuesday ... 15/09/2020
Year 7	8.50am-1.40pm	9.00am-1.40pm	Online Lessons	Online Lessons	Online Lessons	9.00am-1.40pm	9.00am-1.40pm	9.00am-1.40pm
Year 8			9.50am-11.10am	Online Lessons	Online Lessons	Online Lessons	9.30am-2.05pm	9.30am-2.05pm
Year 9				9.50am-11.10am	Online Lessons	Online Lessons	Online Lessons	8.40am-1.15pm
Year 10				11.40am-12.50pm	Online Lessons	Online Lessons	Online Lessons	9.05am-1.40pm
Year 11			8.40am-1.40pm	8.40am-1.40pm	8.40am-1.40pm	8.40am-1.40pm	8.40am-1.40pm	8.40am-2.30pm
Year 12		8.40am-1.40pm	8.40am-1.40pm	8.40am-1.40pm	8.40am-1.40pm	8.40am-1.40pm	8.40am-1.40pm	8.40am-2.30pm
Year 13	8.40am-12.50pm	8.40am-1.40pm	8.40am-1.40pm	8.40am-1.40pm	8.40am-1.40pm	8.40am-1.40pm	8.40am-1.40pm	8.40am-2.30pm
Key	Start/induction		Working at home		Lessons at school			





“it is not enough for children to be loved,
they must know that they are loved”

#Believe And Achieve

Online lessons will be provided on our Microsoft Teams platform. Your child will be given log in details and training of how to access this platform on the induction days. On the days when they are not attending in person, students will be expected to be doing schoolwork and staying in contact with their teachers via Microsoft Teams. Registers will be taken online for each live lesson. If you do not currently have internet access at home or a laptop, tablet or PC that your child can use then please contact our IT support team and they will work with you to try to find a solution.

In the medium to long-term it is important that your child has access to IT at home to support them with their learning. A supplier that we use, Insight, provide a scheme for parents to buy Chromebooks for their child at discounted prices and we will share details of this shortly.

Safety Measures

You may have already seen our risk assessment and safety planning on the website but there are some key messages that I would like to share with you to provide reassurance and to enlist your support.

Students will be taught in year group ‘bubbles’ to minimise the risk of the potential spread of infection. This will mean that classes will remain in the same rooms instead of moving around the school where this is possible. Breaks and play times will be reduced to maintain social distancing. Hand sanitisers and additional wash stations are being installed throughout the school and regular reminders and opportunities to use these will be in place. We will have additional cleaning staff on site throughout the day regularly sanitising high contact surfaces. High risk activities, such as singing, will be curtailed and PE lessons will take place outside where possible. We will regularly review these measures in the light of updated government advice.

We expect all students to return to school – school attendance is compulsory. If you have any concerns about medical or other issues, then please do get in touch to discuss these so that we can find a way to support you and your child. Of course, if your child has any symptoms of the virus such as a persistent cough and high temperature then please seek medical advice and get a test before sending them in to school. If a child is Covid-19 positive, then they should remain at home in isolation for 10 days. If anyone at home is tested positive, then your child should be kept at home for 14 days before returning to school if they are symptom free.

Public transport is another area that has caused concern for parents and we encourage you, where possible, to support your child to walk or cycle to school. To help us gain a better understanding of how our children are travelling to school I would be grateful if you would use [this link](#) to complete a short travel survey.

We are also adapting classroom routines to minimise chances of cross infection. In Year 7 -9 students will only have two exercise books to use across all subjects and these books must be kept clean and in good order. We have organised Covid packs of a clear plastic folder with stationery and books for each child which we can provide to you at cost of £3. Please can you purchase this via ParentMail (available from 2 September), or send your child in with £3 in correct change on their first day.

Please encourage your child to bring as little as possible to school on a daily basis – school bags will not be needed if a child has a school Covid pack. PE kit will still need to be brought in on the day of lessons. The canteen will be open for lunchtimes with all meals pre-packed in hygienic eco-friendly single used boxes; there will be no plated service until further notice. You are welcome to provide your child with a packed lunch or healthy snacks for school if you wish but please remember that we value the importance of healthy eating and thus no sweets, crisps, junk food or fizzy drinks please – these will be confiscated.





**"it is not enough for children to be loved,
they must know that they are loved"**

#Believe And Achieve

The year group bubbles mean that our normal, vertical tutor group sessions can't go ahead in person at the moment. We strongly believe in the value of these encounters between students of different ages so at the start of term these will take place online, after the normal school closure time. Tutors will agree this with form groups and contact parents directly with information about when they are taking place. It is important that your child takes part in these and is fully connected to our online pastoral provision through Teams.

There is currently a good deal of press coverage about the issue of face coverings in school. We will continue to follow government advice and will update you accordingly if this changes. As of this morning, the use of face masks in schools in England is not mandatory unless a local lockdown is in place. However, if it is your choice that your child wears a mask then they will be allowed to do so at SJBC. Please note however that we will expect them to be worn responsibly and consistently. Students failing to do this will be asked to remove them. They should also be plain and in keeping with school colours (blue, black, white, grey). Each child who wishes to wear a mask should have a clean bag or container to store their mask if it is not reusable and wash their hands pre touching it. Please ensure that you have discussed this with your child and that they are clear about the expectations above.

As per government advice, students will be expected to wear full school uniform and there are no requirements for any changes or additional cleaning of this. Please make sure that your child's presentation is 'school ready' with appropriate formal hairstyles and no jewellery worn to school. I would also like to stress that all students must adhere to the normal school rules and follow the additional Covid-19 safety measures fully. Failure to do so puts others at risk and will not be tolerated. Students who do not cooperate may be asked to remain at home until we are confident that they can attend school safely.

Please make sure you are signed up for the SIMS Engage App to get live information about your child's attendance and information from school. We will send out information next week about parent drop-in sessions if you need help setting this up on your smartphone.

Finally, I appreciate that this is a lengthy and detailed letter – thank you for your patience in reading through it. If English is not your first language and you would like help with translating any aspects of it then please contact us. This letter and any updates will be available on our website. You are warmly encouraged to contact the school to speak to your child's tutor or a member of the pastoral team if you have any questions or concerns. You can also email us at schoolclosure@sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk.

A ray of hope ...

If the past few months have taught me one thing it is the value of community. I feel very privileged to lead a school community that has, and will continue to, respond to the difficulties and challenges that face us as a country, city and local community, with real love and care for each other. The next few weeks and months will no doubt throw up lots of questions and challenges, but I am more certain than ever that together we will continue to thrive.

I look forward to seeing you soon. In the meantime, stay safe and well.

With best wishes

Paul Dunne
Headteacher

