



St. Julie's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mr. T. Alderman

"Serve the good God well with much liberty of spirit"

26th June, 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are keeping well and starting to appreciate some of the new freedoms that we are being given in terms of leaving our homes and returning to some aspects of normality. There have been some very worrying scenes around the country, with mass gatherings and huge crowds flocking to beaches and parks. Whilst I can understand why people would do such things, we are still very much in the middle of a pandemic and we are all tasked with continuing to be sensible and considerate of each other in our actions.

In school, we have managed to accommodate a maximum of 40 identified students and children of key workers since 1 June each day. Unfortunately, we must follow government guidance on this group, which means that even if a child drops out at this stage we should not introduce new children to this 'bubble'. These children have been accommodated in their own facilities on the ground and first floor. Since 15 June we have invited 25% of Yr10 & 12 students into school, across 4 days per week, for relatively normal academic lessons in their relevant GCSE and A level subjects on the second floor. Attendance in these groups, especially Yr10, has been excellent considering the constraints in which we are living our lives currently. Students are coming in between 9.30am and 10am to avoid busy periods on buses. Please remember, all public transport users are required to wear a face covering to protect themselves and others.

You may have heard the government announcement a week ago which changed the 2 metre distancing to 1 metre plus in places where 2 metres is not possible, which means that in these areas people should remain 1 metre apart plus use other measures as well, such as a face mask, visor or screen. In school, we can maintain 2 metre distancing so we will not be changing our risk assessment to include 1 metre plus and we expect all children, staff and visitors to follow the 2 metre rule, to keep everyone as safe as possible.

In the next 2 weeks we expect to hear how government wants school to manage the return of all students in September. Currently, school is set up with classrooms containing only 10 desks and chairs. The dining room has all tables removed and only holds 44 chairs. Similar measures have been applied across school, plus distancing tape on floors, in toilet blocks and on computers in ICT suites. In order to enable the school to be made ready for September, I have taken the decision to move the 2 INSET days that were scheduled for Friday 26 June and Monday 29 June to the last 2 days of term, namely 16 and 17 July. I am also taking the decision to **close school on Friday 10 July to all students**, to allow 3 days in the week beginning 13 July for staff to start to return the school premises to normal.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend to you the school premises, cleaning and catering teams. These staff have worked every week since 20 March, when we entered lockdown, to ensure the school is a safe and clean environment. I now have to ensure they take their holiday entitlement through the summer so they can continue to maintain a safe and clean school ahead of our return in September. In a school of 10,000 square metres that is no mean feat.

When I have any information on how school will operate in September I will write again and share our plans with you. In the meantime, please stay safe by limiting the number of people you come into contact with, reduce the number of surfaces you touch when out and about and keep your distance from other people.

Finally, despite supporting Everton since the age of 7, can I offer my heartfelt congratulations to Liverpool FC and all their supporters on their remarkable Premiere League victory. It is a fantastic achievement, a great accolade for the city and a welcome boost for all of us in such trying times.

Best wishes,

Tim Alderman