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Dear Parents and Carers

I normally write over the summer break, a letter that has grown, over the years, to four pages. This year I thought it would be more helpful to be a little more focused. This September is going to be different to any September we have previously experienced!

Our priority will be keeping every member of our community as safe as we can. We have made changes that are designed to significantly reduce the risk of virus transmission and allow students to make progress in their learning.

Bubbles – We will be keeping students in year-based bubbles until it is safe to relax these controls. Each year group will have their own outside space, toilets and their own zone within the school site – for example Yr 7 will be based on the top floor of the John Paul II building. School staff will remain within single bubbles as much as possible.

Face Coverings - scientists around the world have encouraged the use of masks to limit the spread of Covid-19. Wearing a mask prevents the user spreading the disease rather than protecting the user. Therefore, as an essential part of us keeping the school open our expectation is that students will wear face coverings.

Food – Probably your son's main focus! For the time being we will not be providing hot food from September. Packed lunches will be available that can be ordered in advance via a new Fusion Mobile App available for both Apple and Android phones. Details and personalised log-ins will be sent to you in the next week.

Uniform and Super 6 – In our new normal, we retain our old normal high expectations! Students will not be able to share stationery so being fully equipped is a requirement.

When Does School Start –
Monday 7 September – 8:30 for Yr 7 and 9:30 for Yr 10
Tuesday 8 September – 8:30 for Years 7,10 and 11; 9:00 for Yr 8 and 9:30 for Yr 9
Wednesday 9 September – 8:30 Whole school returns

Lessons will start at the usual time of 8:30 which is earlier than any other local school so we are helping to distribute the pressure on public transport. The school gate will not open until 7:30am. Lessons finishing at 2:30pm also enables our students to return home before peak time. However, as time passes we will keep this under review and may have to make changes to end of the school day.

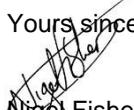
Car Park – I understand that more families may hope to drive their children to school. Space is limited in our car park so I ask you to drop your child off a short distance away from school to avoid congestion on site. If we have more cars than we can safely manage on site, we will have to close the car park. At the end of the school day, there simply is not enough space for you to wait in the car park so again I ask you to arrange to pick up your son a short distance away from the school.

Front Gate – It is not safe for groups of Parents and carers to wait at the school gate at the end of the day. Social distancing remains a sensible and safe way to reduce the risk of virus transmission. Please be aware of this.

Communication – As we all know, the situation and requirements relating to Coronavirus change rapidly and frequently. Please do ensure our emails to you go into your inbox and not into 'Spam' and continue to check the school website for updates.

I wish you an enjoyable and refreshing time for the remainder of the summer break and look forward to working in partnership with you for the safety and happiness of your son.

Yours sincerely


Nigel Fisher
Head Teacher

Our school is an inclusive place of learning that celebrates and welcomes diversity. Every member of our community is a unique and special creation of God and is known, cared for and valued for the contribution they make. Every student is challenged and supported to achieve his best.

