



# Salesian School

Enlightening minds, uplifting hearts

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Dear All,

I had hoped to be writing to you this week to share details of how we intended to proceed following the government announcement on the easing of lockdown measures. However, despite having now had statements from the PM and the Secretary of State as well as official guidance from the DfE, I'm sorry to say that it is still not clear what exactly the expectations are of secondary schools after half term.

Notwithstanding the fact that both circumstances and government advice are likely to continue changing, we are currently planning for the following:

- Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 being unlikely to return to school this term
- Students in Years 10 and 12 to return at some point towards the end of term if circumstances support it
- Continued in-school provision for the children of key workers, those with EHCPs and others who fall into various "vulnerable" categories

Regardless of when students in any year group are actually permitted to return to school, we believe that, over the coming weeks, we will need to further adapt our current provision to ensure it is fit for purpose for what will be a longer period of home-learning than we had originally hoped.

It is not my intention to go into the detail of exactly what this will look like for each individual year group here, but in broad terms, we are currently working to modify our provision to ensure the following for after half term:

- Learning is set according to a published timetable rather than on a weekly basis
- Teachers plan lessons which are tailored to particular classes or sets
- Regular opportunities are timetabled when classes can interact with teachers
- Students are given opportunities to submit work for feedback
- Further opportunities for "face-to-face" contact and provision that is actively facilitated by teachers

We know from your feedback that the vast majority of you are more than happy with the current provision. However if, as now seems likely, at least some of the children will not be back in school on a full-time basis until September at the earliest, we need to keep improving what we do to ensure that we have a system that delivers a consistently good deal for every student. There will be further communications from the school next week that will lay out details of what this will mean for each year group.

We also know from your feedback that whilst most students are engaging happily with the work, some are choosing not to and some of you are finding it difficult to get them to do so. Adaptations to our systems for assessing and feeding back after half term will further highlight who is and isn't completing the work. Whilst some students' personal circumstances make it really difficult, there are others who have no excuse. Either way, please get in touch if this applies to your son or daughter and we will offer further guidance and support to ensure that they don't fall further behind.

It was our intention to be sharing with you this week our plans for the practicalities of ensuring a safe return to school for the students. Given that this now seems unlikely to be happening for the majority for at least another few weeks, it would seem prudent to postpone this until we have received further government guidance about when exactly this might happen and what it might look like. We are all sorry that things aren't more clear cut but this is understandable given the circumstances.

Every family will receive another phone call next week in the run up to the half term holiday but if in the meantime you are facing difficulties or need further support, please do get in touch. Thank you for continuing to provide strength of community and for keeping the Salesian Spirit well and truly alive.

With the prayers, gratitude and best wishes of everyone here at the school,

God bless,

James Kibble  
Salesian School