



Salesian School

Enlightening minds, uplifting hearts

Headteacher: Mr J Kibble

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Dear All,

Thank you to all those who took the time to complete one of our surveys. We were pleased to get such a positive response - on average the overall approval rating of the school's performance during lockdown is 94% from parents and 85% from students. Whilst this is encouraging, particularly given the circumstances, please know that we will be making every effort over the coming weeks to address any areas of dissatisfaction and as always, will not rest until every stakeholder is happy.

The areas of strength most commonly fed back were: the hard work, positivity and commitment of the staff to both teaching and offering support to students and their families and the quality of communication during lockdown. The areas identified for improvement or those that caused concern were:

- **The amount of work set for students** – this was a fairly even split between those who felt that it was too much and those who were not being set enough. It is clearly difficult to get the balance right with this, particularly given the reduced opportunity to gauge how students are coping. However, we will continue to work on it and please know that where patterns are identified, we are addressing the situation.
- **The amount of live lessons provided** – again, this was a mixed picture but the majority said they wanted more rather than less of this provision. As of last week, we have asked teachers to abandon some of, what we now realise are, the less effective live interactions in order to focus on teaching more live lessons via Microsoft Teams. We have committed to providing as much of this as possible between now and the end of term but please bear in mind that apart from this, the majority of teachers are now required to be in school for at least half the week working with the groups who are in. This is the main reason why we are unable to lay on a full timetable of live lessons. Also, on live lessons, please turn your cameras on – this was raised by lots of students (and teachers) who would like to see everyone's faces.
- **The plans for returning to school in September** – many students and families are keen to know exactly what will be happening in September and this is understandable. Needless to say, we continue to be at the mercy of government guidelines which themselves are guided by the data on Covid cases. All of this is likely to continue changing over the coming weeks and therefore it is difficult to offer any clarity about exactly what will be happening. Nevertheless, we continue to plan for all children to be back full-time in September with some adaptations aimed at promoting well-being and safety amongst all members of the school community.

If you gave more specific feedback about an issue that was particularly pertinent to you, and did so anonymously, we would encourage you to contact someone here directly so that we can deal with it appropriately.

Everyone here completely empathises with those students (and their families) who haven't yet been able to return to school. We appreciate how hard it is to stay motivated but please don't give up! There will no doubt be a temptation to tail off in the last two weeks of term, particularly as lockdown measures continue to ease. However, please remember that all the effort you make over the next couple of weeks will not be in vain and we would encourage you to keep working hard completing and, where asked, submitting every piece of work set. This is the message that we've given to the teachers who we know will not be winding down before the end, please make sure you don't either; this is what will mark Salesian students out from so many others. The 6 week summer holiday is just around the corner and will be so much more enjoyable if you've worked hard all the way up to it.

For any student who is feeling overwhelmed by what I've said above, please get in touch with your Head of Year or any other member of staff that you feel you can reach out to. Whilst we know that those who maintain consistent work patterns are those who are least likely to suffer with stress, we also appreciate that for some, the



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fear of falling behind or not being able to cope can leave you feeling incapable of doing anything. Please shout if this applies to you.

Attached and linked below are a few other things you might have missed this week:

- A short message from me about the week ahead - [Reward](#)
- An invitation from Miss Honeywood for those who are looking for emotional support with the return to school – attached.
- An introduction to this year's House Charities from Miss Barnsley – [House Charities](#)
- Our latest newsletter – attached

Thank you for all you are doing to stay well, safe, productive and in good spirits; the vast majority can afford to feel very proud of the way they have overcome the challenges of the lockdown; don't underestimate your achievements.

God bless,

James Kibble

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