



# Salesian School

Enlightening minds, uplifting hearts

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Dear All,

As I write at the end of the penultimate week of the academic year, there is a sense that we are, very slowly, moving towards a return to something resembling normality. Here at school we are busy making plans that will allow us to welcome back all students to the school and the college. Needless to say, given the potential risks involved, this is a complicated piece of work. We are however confident, that by making some basic changes and mitigations, and with the good sense and will of everyone in the school community, we will be able to have everyone back safely and still offer all our students a great education and a happy experience.

We are currently consulting with the staff about our proposed plans. Once this process has been completed, Mr Gower will write to you next week to set out how things will work for each year group from September. Of course the return in September is dependent on infection numbers continuing to fall. The start of next term is still a long way off and we could be in a very different situation (for better or for worse) by then. We will be in touch towards the end of the summer holidays to confirm that we are going ahead with a full opening or, if the situation has changed, with details of "Plan B" – let's all hope and pray though, that we won't need one!

Mr Gower's email be one of a number of important communications from us next week; please look out for this as well as something from Mrs Bolton about students returning to College and something from Mr McCann about the arrangements for students collecting GCSE and A' Level results as well as emails from Heads of Year with details for end-of-year assemblies next Friday.

It has been good to speak to all families on the phone again this week. Please do let us know if you haven't received a phone call for some reason and we will put this right. We also thoroughly enjoyed our first online Parents Evening for Year 12 students. On the whole, this trial went really well and will give us an option for Parents Evenings next term if restrictions are still in place. We would be interested to hear your feedback on the experience.

Everyone is obviously looking forward to the summer holiday which is understandable. Just one week to go but please know that the efforts you make in these last few days will not be wasted; everything that gets done now will stand the students in good stead of their return. We appreciate that different families have had very different lockdown experiences and students will have made differing amounts of progress as a result. The best remedy for this will be to get everyone back and exposed to the excellent teaching that is on offer here at Salesian; we will be making a conscious effort to refrain from banging on about "catching up", however, every hour that the students put in now, even over the coming week, will make a positive difference.

The last couple of weeks of the summer term are usually a particularly busy time with all the events that would normally be running, the school show, Year 11 Prom, Year 13 Dinner Dance, Sports Day, Awards Evening to mention but a few. The lack of opportunity for big community celebration has been particularly felt by everyone here at school of late and brings in to further focus how much we are missing everyone. We don't want to wish the summer away but we really can't wait to see you all again in September!

I shall write again to introduce the end-of-year (almost there!) newsletter next week but in the meantime please enjoy a happy and peaceful weekend and please know how grateful all of us here continue to be for the hard work commitment and love you bring to our school community.

God bless,  
James Kibble