



3 June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Year 10 and Year 12 provision at St Katherine's**

A sincere thank you to the families who completed the Transition to Learning at School survey for Year 10 and Year 12. We now have a clearer indication about your perspectives for a return to St Katherine's for Year 10 and Year 12 students from 15 June, as outlined in the [latest government guidelines](#) issued on Monday 25 May 2020. We will be communicating full details with you early next week.

We continue to focus on improving our Learning@Home programme to all our students and recognise this will remain the predominant mode of education during Term 6 for all year groups. We have listened carefully to the feedback from students who will continue to experience increased audio and video aspects within their learning programme. Our focus and training is solely focused on raising engagement through increased audio and video, along with inspiring our learners through our Learning@Home programme.

**Year 7-9     Learning@Home Programme**

**Year 10     Learning@Home Programme with some face-to-face contact with teachers**  
**Year 12**

**Year 11     Access to further learning, careers advice and Next Step guidance**  
**Year 13**

The reopening of the School to Year 10 and Year 12 students will be driven by our own risk assessment. Guiding principles have been agreed across the Cathedral Schools Trust (CST) and are detailed in the attached document. We trust this document will answer some of the questions which you have raised. Our risk assessments will be considered by our local governing board, assessed by a Health and Safety consultant before being given final approval from CST Trustees.

We understand some parents/carers will be keen for their child(ren) to return to see their teachers and we recognise some have concerns regarding their child's safety. The decision as to whether you wish your child to attend our new provision rests with parents/carers and this will understandably be dictated by personal circumstances. The government has made clear the legal responsibility for your child to attend has been suspended.

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The planned provision and timings from Monday 15 June will not reflect a typical school day. The provision will be determined by the safety of all members of our community, observing social distancing guidelines and good hygiene at all times, along with the government guidelines. With only a quarter of students allowed on site at any one time, we trust you can appreciate how limited this provision will be and hence our focus will remain on how we can best support your child learning at home. Our second consideration is how we are able to achieve the greatest positive impact on each child in such a restricted structure.

None of these arrangements come close to substituting a school experience for a young person and we recognise some will need additional support in transitioning back to school. This will be discussed with key workers. We thank our staff for continuing to work in the best interests of our whole community while balancing their own circumstances. We appreciate and thank our parents/carers who are supporting their child(ren) and we understand just how challenging this juggling act is. Our offer to vulnerable students and the children of key workers will remain in place each day during Term 6.

We strongly encourage you to discuss with your child(ren) that their partial return to school will be different from their previous school experience. We encourage you to help your child(ren) view the return to school as a positive experience even though it may feel and look different. We count on your support to assist your child(ren) as they develop their understanding of why we will introduce certain protocols or restrictions such as social distancing to protect their health and the health of others.

We want to assure you that we have great empathy for the situation you and your family are facing and will do everything we can to make the transition as smooth as possible. We understand that as quickly as the COVID-19 virus has swept around the globe, new rules, limitations and coping scenarios have emerged just as rapidly. Every day we are faced with a slightly different perspective of how COVID-19 could impact us. This impact might be lessened for some families but for others it has caused major disruptions.

No matter how you and your family have had to cope with this unprecedented situation, we hope, with our collective support as a community, that together we can bring optimism, hope and resilience to the situation. Most importantly, we look forward to gradually welcoming our students back to St Katherine's with the appropriate measures in place to safeguard our community's health and wellbeing.

Kind regards



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Headteacher

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