



St Katherine's School



19 August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this letter finds you and your families well and you have been able to enjoy some rest during the summer break. This letter is a brief update as we all prepare for school in September.

During the summer term and summer break we have made significant investments in our site which I know students will appreciate and enjoy. Top of the list for many students will be the new tarmac and fencing on the bottom courts. We have new tarmac on the entrance pathways into school and have decorated a number of areas within school, adding substantial subject and house design murals in maths, science and the lecture theatre. A number of other upgrades have taken place including new CCTV to further enhance site safety and security for our whole community.

Exam results

The awarding of results this year has been complex in many ways for all concerned. While we celebrate their hard earned success, we are mindful of each student's situation and are supporting all Year 13 and Year 11 students to ensure no student's pathway is disrupted by a set of circumstances entirely out of their control.

Buses

Further to the letter from Mr Francis-Black dated 13 August, we are delighted to confirm Turner's Coaches will be providing all bus transport for St Katherine's from Monday 7 September. Full details will be circulated before the end of the week, including payment details which will require a direct debit. **Please ensure you sign up to secure a seat on this service when the details are shared.**

We are confident the new bus service will be of the highest quality and all students travelling will be issued with a bus ticket, including an allocated seat. We are working hard to reduce travel times across the bus routes based on feedback from parents/carers last year and look forward to sharing these with you.

During the summer we have been in dialogue with First Bus and are conscious of the restrictions in place on public transport. They are running at a maximum of 50% capacity which is just 35 seats on a double decker. **We understand this is likely to be for some time and we strongly recommend you do not rely on this service to bring your child(ren) to school from September. As per the government guidelines, public transport should only be used by children as a last resort.** All parents/carers are encouraged to sign up to our bus service to secure home to school transport and we will work with Turner's to secure a convenient, high quality and reliable service for your child(ren).

There will be no school bus services running on Thursday 3 September or Friday 4 September 2020. A reminder, the first week in September is outlined below and full [term dates](#) for next year are available on our website.

Tuesday 1 September

Wednesday 2 September

Thursday 3 September

Friday 4 September

Monday 7 September

INSET DAY (closed to all students)

INSET DAY (closed to all students)

Year 7 and Year 12

Year 7, Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13

All year groups

Face coverings on school buses and public buses

We will be looking to minimise contact on the buses and will run a deliberate boarding system both to and from school. **Face coverings are required at all times on public transport (for children over the age of 11).** We are currently reviewing the guidance which is for 'all students traveling on any of the school bus services will be required to wear a face covering' as part of our risk assessment and will confirm this with you before the start of term. We encourage students to walk or cycle where possible and appreciate this is not an option for many of our students.

Face coverings in schools

The latest government guidance does not recommend the use of face coverings in schools. However, we will continue to keep a close eye on the government guidance before the start of term and will inform you if there is any change to the government or school position on this. If it is the case that the use of face coverings becomes recommended or compulsory in school, we are exploring how this would be most effectively and easily managed for all concerned.

Uniform and PE Kit

To ensure a smooth start to the new academic year, please take a moment to review your child's school uniform ahead of the return to school. Full guidance can be found on our website. Please remember that trainers are not permitted as footwear and that skirts and trousers should be tailored (not lycra or tight-fitting). **On days on which your child has PE, they should travel to school in their PE kit as changing facilities will not be available on site.** Students can wear black jogging trousers over their PE kit. Children should not wear PE kit to school on any other day.

Risk Assessment

Our risk assessment will be shared with our whole community prior to the start of term and will be available on our website. Should you have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact Mr Maw, Deputy Headteacher in the first instance.

Foreign Holidays and Quarantine

This continues to be a very hot topic and the recent addition of France, along with a number of other countries is clearly causing a significant amount of disruption and stress to families and we sympathise with those caught in the changing guidelines - we all needed a holiday more than ever this summer after all. Given the disruption caused last year we are keen to ensure we have a 'clean' start to the Autumn term so we can establish new routines as quickly as possible for teachers and students. Rest assured we will work constructively and sensibly with our families based on government guidelines and will not be seeking to penalise parents/carers whose plans have been affected by a change in government guidance regarding foreign travel.

Winter Flu Vaccinations for Year 7 students

The Department for Health and Social Care has recently announced an expansion to the winter flu vaccination programme to include students in Year 7. More details of this will be available during the Autumn term.

We are continuing to prepare for the return of all students to school in September on our amended school day, as detailed in my letter dated 14 July. All letters to parents/carers are available on our [website](#). Inevitably there will be further questions and we ask you to share those with us using this [form](#). We will answer your questions in future correspondence during the summer break

In the meantime, continued good wishes for the summer holidays.

Kind regards



Justin Humphreys
Headteacher