22nd June 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope that you are all well and you have all had a good weekend. Last week was an important step forward for St George welcoming back our Year 10 students. It certainly made us realise how much we all miss our students and teaching them face to face. **The Government announced on Friday that it is their intention that all students will be back in school in all year groups full time from September 2020. Guidance on the safety measures will be published in the next fortnight.** This is brilliant news and a huge relief to you and us. Hopefully we can now work towards welcoming back all our pupils and will of course study the safety measures when they are published. The next formal review by the Government on current lockdown measures is this Thursday 25th June. Please see below a summary of updates.

**Year 10 School**

75% of Year 10 attended last week. This was unexpected but a wonderful surprise. We hope students have gained some confidence from being back in the school building and meeting their teachers and other pupils within their class. Students received lessons in Maths, English and Science to supplement home learning on MS Teams. This plan will now continue until the end of the summer term. Great credit to the pupils. We hope they felt reassured and pleased to be back. The staff have missed formal teaching and you have given them a lift - thank you. A huge thank you to everyone in Year 10 who applied to be a prefect and to Mr Shelley for organising it. We interviewed candidates for Head Boy, Head Girl, deputy Head Boy and deputy Head Girl remotely last week. Students will be able to vote from next week and we will be able to finalise our list of prefects and inform all students by the end of term.

**Key Worker School**

As you will know we have been providing supervision on site for students to continue their online learning in school for key worker and vulnerable pupils since we formally closed. Initially we had 11 pupils in on a daily basis. We now have over 40 each day. We are getting new requests and I would like to politely inform you that there is a limit to what we can manage safely. Therefore, new requests for places may have to be declined if we do not have the capacity because staff are also committed to MS Teams and Year 10 school. We will do our best and we will always try and amend our plans but these changes cannot happen overnight because it requires changes to staffing and facilities on site which may not be possible.

**RSE – Relationship & Sex Education Policy**

As you may be aware the Government has made some changes to Relationships and Sex Education. This was originally to start in September 2020 but has been pushed back because of the lockdown. At St George we have always followed diocesan guidelines on these matters and promoted the teachings of the Catholic church on these matters. The current draft policy, which is on the website, has been approved by the Governors and the Diocese. We invite you to read the draft policy and if you have any questions or comments contact Mr Walford on [dwalford@stgcc.co.uk](mailto:dwalford@stgcc.co.uk) This consultation will be open until Monday July 13th 2020.

<https://www.stgcc.co.uk/page/?title=Policies&pid=40>

**Trips – Auschwitz, Barcelona and Disney Trips – Autumn Term 2020**

Due to the COVID 19 crisis these residential trips due to take place next term have been postponed and are in the process of being rearranged. I am sorry for the disruption caused but we felt it was important to change the dates for the safety and wellbeing of both students and staff and due to the lack of information and instability in the travel industry. Therefore, the Auschwitz trip has been rearranged to March 2021. The Disney trip is being rearranged for Feb 2021. The Barcelona trip is being rearranged for the same time the following academic year. Please note each member of staff in charge of these trips will be writing to all parents shortly. I am afraid there will be an additional cost because we have had to change dates with the tour operator. Dates and additional costs will be confirmed by Miss Jay for Disney, Miss Simpson for the Barcelona Trip and Miss Self for Auschwitz. All students with places on these trips will keep their place unless they choose to now cancel their place. Please be aware if you do cancel you lose your non-refundable deposit.

**FSM**

Finally, common sense has prevailed and free school meal vouchers have been approved for the summer holidays. We will of course action this close to the start of the summer holidays. The voucher is a one-off voucher for the entire summer break. Ms Marion Meider who has been doing this on a weekly basis will action this. If you need to contact her the email address is [mmeider@stgcc.co.uk](mailto:mmeider@stgcc.co.uk)

**Catch up Funding and Summer School Announcement**

The Government have outlined a proposal to provide funding to help students catch up with specific reference to one-to-one tuition and summer schools. We are waiting to see what the specific guidance is and who the funding applies too. Therefore, please can I ask that you leave this with us to receive the guidance when it arrives and develop a plan before making any further comment on it.

**Mentoring Appointments and Mentoring Day**

As you will be aware mentoring day for the summer term, has been cancelled and therefore there will be no summer term mentoring reports. If you would like us to post your son/daughter’s spring term mentoring day report we will do. Mr Bedford will be writing to all parents in due course.

**Sports Personality of the Year**

A huge thank you to the PE department for hosting a live Sports Personality of the year awards. Congratulations to those winners shown below:

* Year 7 Boys - Lucas Cherry
* Year 7 Girls - Harriet Joslin
* Year 8 Girls - Jasmine Knight
* Year 8 Boys - Malachi Ogunleye
* Year 9 Boys - Callum Walford
* Year 9 Girls - Emily Burrows
* Year 10 Girls - Saskia Sims
* Year 10 Boys - Leo Goncalves
* Year 11 Girls - Roisin Fearon
* Year 11 Boys - Jacob Gilpin

Overall

* 3rd - Rafael Aleksi-Huele
* 2nd - Liam Paradine-Ford
* 1st - Anna Fenton

**Safeguarding - Pupils**

[**staysafe@stgcc.co.uk**](mailto:staysafe@stgcc.co.uk)

This email address is available **only for pupils** if you are feeling concerned for your safety, wellbeing or anxiety which is affecting your ability to function as you normally would. This will be looked at daily. For parents, the email address will be emailed to all students via their school email accounts.

Finally, please stay safe, follow the guidance by the Government, and look after each other. We will continue to keep in touch.

Yours faithfully,



Mr J Habberley

Headteacher