

Dear Parent / Carer

I am pleased to be able to write to you with confirmed arrangements for the start of the academic year 2020-21. However, before I go into the exact details, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for all of your support over the past four months. It has certainly been a challenging time for you as families, and for us trying to deliver an effective education in an unfamiliar way with very little notice. Nonetheless, it does show how, by working together, we can overcome issues and obstacles and emerge all the stronger for it.

I would like to say that we will be 'back to normal' from September, but that is not exactly the case. Certainly, all pupils in all Year groups will be returning in the new term and we will be running a full curriculum provision from Year 7 through to Year 13. However, there will inevitably be some operational changes as we adapt to the challenges of Covid-19 and these are outlined in this letter. As a school, we are going to have to learn to coexist with the virus and some activities that were normal for St Cyres will have to be suspended in this interim period.

Week 1

The new term starts on Tuesday 1st September 2020. As with most schools in the Vale of Glamorgan and across Wales, we will be taking the first 2 days as preparation days to ensure that we are fully ready for the pupils to arrive.

We will then be welcoming our new Year 7 pupils and our Year 12 pupils back on **Thursday 3rd September**. Year 7 should arrive at the slightly earlier time of 8:20am and should enter the building via the pupil entrance. Year 12 should arrive at the usual time of 8:30am and should enter the building through the doors next to the Dining Room on the car park side. Staff will be available to direct pupils to the correct entrances.

Year 7 and Year 12 will be the only Year groups in school on Thursday and Friday of this week. During these 2 days, we will be focussing on transition activities that we were unable to complete this term. For Year 7, it will be familiarisation with the school, meeting their Learning Coaches and Head of Year, and undertaking some transition activities to ensure that they are ready to start more formal lessons in the coming weeks. The outline programme for Year 7 pupils for these days is shown at the bottom of this letter. For Year 12, we recognise that they have not had any formal education for many months, and nor have they had the opportunity to have any transition work from GCSE to A Level. Therefore, these pupils will undertake transition activities with the Head of 6th Form and the new Learning Coaches, as well as preparing them for the demands of A Level study.

Year 7 are encouraged to bring a packed lunch for the first two days of school. If you prefer a school lunch, these can be paid for in cash **only until the Parent Pay**

accounts are set up. Pupils will receive their Parent Pay registration letters and a key fob on Thursday 3rd September which can then be 'topped up' with money in readiness for Friday and the following weeks. We will have a record of those pupils eligible for free school meals and they will be provided with lunch from Thursday 3rd September.

Week 2

We intend to introduce Year groups back each day during this week, until the school is fully occupied on Friday. Therefore, the reopening schedule is as follows:

Monday 7th September 2020: Year 13

Tuesday 8th September 2020: Year 11

Wednesday 9th September 2020: Year 10

Thursday 10th September 2020: Year 9

Friday 11th September 2020: Year 8

Please note that these Year groups are introduced in addition to those who have already started. In other words, once your child has started, according to the schedule above, they continue to attend the rest of the week as further Year groups are introduced.

With all Year groups, we will build in time to spend with the Head of Year and Learning Coaches to ensure that pupils are prepared and ready for school, as well as to give us an opportunity to see where they are with their learning and to establish a way forward for them.

Week 3 Onwards

From **Monday 14th September**, all pupils will attend full-time and as normal, as outlined in the reopening operational guidance published by Welsh Government. All children are expected to attend school unless there is a genuine medical reason not to do so. If there is such a reason, please contact the Year office in the usual way when we return in September.

School Uniform

As outlined in my letter last week, the school is returning to normal in as many ways as possible. Welsh Government advice is that pupils should return to school in full school uniform and that will be our expectation. I understand that this may present some difficulties for you which is why I mentioned it in my letter last week to give you as much time as possible to prepare.

Times of School Day and Entrances to School

To help ensure that there is minimum mixing between Year groups and contact groups, we will be using different entrances for different Year groups. There will also

be a staggered start to the day. The times and entrances will be used on the first day your child returns, and every day after until further notice and are as follows:

Year 7: Catering Rooms Entrance (8:20am start and 2:30pm finish)

Year 8: Catering Rooms Entrance (8:40am start and 2:40pm finish)

Year 9: Pupil entrance (8:50am start and 2:40pm finish)

Year 10: Conservatory entrance to Dining Room (8:40am start and 2:40pm finish)

Year 11: Pupil entrance (8:30am start and 2:40pm finish)

Year 12: 6th Form stairwell on car park side next to Dining Room (8:20am start and 2:45pm finish)

Year 13: 6th Form stairwell on car park side next to Dining Room (8:30am start and 2:45pm finish)

Please ensure that your child arrives in time for their designated start, but do not arrive too early for school as the building will not be open for pupils until the designated start time for each Year group.

Staff will be on hand to assist pupils to find the correct entrance.

Equipment

As I am sure you are aware, sharing pupil equipment will be discouraged due to possible cross-contamination of the virus. I would therefore ask for your support in ensuring that your child has all of the equipment necessary for their lessons. This includes the usual things like pens, pencils, ruler, etc., as well as a fully charged iPad every day.

Calendar of Events

The school would normally have a full calendar of clubs and after school activities for pupils and a programme of events for parents. Until advised differently, there will be no after school clubs or sporting fixtures for pupils. This is to ensure that there is no mixing between contact groups.

Similarly, events for parents such as Open Evening, Information Evenings and Parents' Evenings will be suspended for the time being. When we are in a position to reinstate these, I will advise you in a further letter. If it looks unlikely that we can hold Parents Evenings for some time, we will look at alternative ways of giving you feedback on your child's progress.

Snacks and drinks

Due to restrictions on mixing Year groups, it will not be possible to serve breakfast before school and there will be no food or drinks available at breaktime. Please ensure that your child has a snack and a drink with them if they need it. Lunch arrangements will broadly follow the same pattern as normal before lockdown.

Exam Results Days

Unfortunately, GCSE and A Level results days will not be run as in previous years due to restrictions on site. We will therefore be emailing results to pupils at 08:30am on Thursday 13th August for A Level and AS results and at 08:30am on Thursday 20th August for GCSE results. **Please note that results can only be sent to verified email addresses so will be emailed to your child's school email address.**

We intend to offer support provision for those pupils who need further advice on the next stage and this will happen by appointment **only** on the afternoon of results. Further details on this will be available with the results.

And finally...

On behalf of the Governors and staff, I would like to take this opportunity to wish every success to those pupils who are leaving St Cyres, both from Year 13 and Year 11. I hope that what you have learned in your time at the school will set you up for a successful future and the next stage of your journey, whether that be at university or in the workplace. Please keep us in touch with your progress.

Similarly, I extend a very warm welcome to our new pupils joining us in September. We look forward to seeing you and getting to know you so that we can support you in achieving your potential.

Finally, I would like to thank you for all of your messages of support, both throughout the school year and in the past few months in particular. Despite the unique challenges of the year, it has been a pleasure to work with you and your children and we look forward to another exciting year together. I hope you have a pleasant and relaxing summer holiday.

Yours sincerely

Mr P. Lewis
Acting Headteacher

Year 7 Programme - Thursday 3rd September & Friday 4th September 2020

Thursday 3rd September 2020

8:20 Learning coaches to greet pupils at the Catering room entrance and escort group to base room.

8:20 – 9:50 Session 1 - Time with Learning Coach and Assembly

9:50 – 10:00 BREAK

10:00 – 11:00 Session 2 - Getting to know your peers (Tour of school for 7LH & 7SH)

11:00 – 12:00 Session 3 - Team Building activities (Tour of school for 7MEV & 7BPA)

12:00 – 12:30 Session 4 **Part 1** - Transition booklet and planning (Tour of school for 7CT)

12:30 – 1:10 LUNCH

1:10 – 1:40 Session 4 **Part 2** - Transition booklet and planning (Tour of school for 7KLD)

1:40 – 2:30 Session 5 - Getting to grips with your timetable (Tour of school for 7NHO & 7RT)

Friday 4th September 2020

The format for Friday will follow the same timings as Thursday with a timetable of planned activities for each of the 5 sessions.