

15th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Arrangements for Starting School in September

The first day of the new academic year for students going into year 11 is Thursday 3rd September and for students going into years 8, 9 and 10 it is Friday 4th September. We are really looking forward to welcoming all children back into school at that time, and please be assured we will do everything possible to help them back into a productive and enjoyable school routine. Please also be assured that we are taking every possible step to open the school safely in September. As part of this, you may already know that students at secondary school will be working in 'bubbles' made up of one whole year group. To make this work, the school needs to keep the year groups apart throughout the day, and this means that the start times and finish times are different in different year groups. At the moment, we do not know how long it will be before we can go back to the normal times of the day.

In September, the times of the school day will be:

	<u>Year 9</u>	<u>Year 8</u>	<u>Year 7</u>	<u>Year 10</u>	<u>Year 11</u>
Start of day	8:30	8:45	9:00	9:15	9:30
End of Day	14:15	14:30	14:45	15:00	15:30

Unfortunately, we cannot have children in the building before lessons start in the usual way, as this would mean that different year groups are in the same place. For the same reason, we regret that breakfast will not be available at school. Please could you try to ensure that your child arrives at school no more than 15 minutes before their lessons are due to start. If more than one child from the same family comes to the school and they wish to walk together, they need to arrive at the start time for whichever child starts earliest. The child that starts later can wait in the hall until their year group starts lessons. At the end of the day, the child that finishes at the earlier time will then be able to wait in the hall until their brother or sister finishes. Please note that this is only possible for children from the same family, and students will not be allowed to wait for their friends in other year groups to finish.

Please also note that:

- Uniform rules will be partly relaxed for the first 2 weeks in September. We expect every student to start the year in black shoes, school trousers or skirt, white shirt, a school coat if needed. However, as we have not been able to sell blazers and other St. Joseph's uniform items in the normal way, we will not insist upon these until Monday 21st September to allow parents time to buy any new items that have been outgrown or lost.



- Food at breaktime and lunchtime will be provided free of charge on both Thursday 3rd September for years 7 and 11 and Friday 4th September for all year groups. This will give students a chance to replace any lost lunch cards before charging for food starts again on Monday 7th September. Please note that it will not be possible for students to pay using their fingerprints, as this system will be turned off for the foreseeable future. The cash loader machine that students have used in the past to add money to their accounts will also be out of use, so ParentPay will need to have money added to it online.
- If your child is currently in receipt of free school meals, their lunch card will automatically be credited with £2.50 per day. You will also receive a uniform voucher.
- If you think your child may now be eligible for free school meals, but you are not currently receiving either of the benefits above, please contact the school office on 01793 714200.
- As in normal times, students are allowed to bring a packed lunch and their own snacks if they wish.

Finally, please be aware that the Government is updating its advice to schools in August. If this update means that we need to change the arrangements given in this letter, we will write to you again at that time.

I hope that you all have a peaceful and restful Summer, and we look forward to welcoming your children back to St. Joseph's in September. If you have any questions at this time, please feel free to contact the school office.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. W.', written in a cursive style.

Jerry Giles – Head of School