

The Newman Catholic Collegiate



St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy
Little Chell Lane
Tunstall
Stoke on Trent
ST6 6LZ

Telephone: 01782 883036
Email: ibeardmore@stmmarysnewman.co.uk

Accounting Officer: Mr Ian Beardmore

3rd July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As I am sure you are aware all schools across the collegiate will be closed to all pupils for the 6 week break. I would like to thank all the staff across the collegiate who have worked incredibly hard to make things as normal as possible for our pupils. I am delighted to say that from September all children will be allowed back into school where we can all come together again. Each individual school will share all their arrangements with you.

Yesterday, the government released full details of how all children and staff will return to school and I wanted to share some of this with you. Most important to us is the safety of your children and our staff. You are our number 1 priority – we care about each and every member of our community.

Each Year group will be a bubble and will not mix with other Year groups. Classrooms will look different and all desks will be forward facing in rows. There will be rigorous procedures in place in order to ensure that pupils clean their hands when they arrive at school, when they return from breaks, when they change rooms and before and after eating. I would urge you to continue with these procedures with your children at home and when out and about.

There will be more frequent cleaning of rooms/shared areas that are used by different groups. Classroom based resources, such as books and games, can be used and shared within the bubble; these will be cleaned regularly, along with all frequently touched surfaces. Resources that are shared between classes or bubbles, such as sports, art and science equipment will be cleaned frequently and meticulously and always between bubbles, or rotated to allow them to be left unused and out of reach for a period of 48 hours (72 hours for plastics) between use by different bubbles.

At playtimes and lunchtime, the different bubbles will not mix.

The start and the end of the school day could be slightly different. We need to avoid large amounts of people arriving at the same time. This may mean that you need to arrive a little earlier or leave a little later. I urge you to ensure that you arrive at your given time. It is important that wherever possible you walk to school. We are working hard to try and provide the usual wrap around care in all our schools.

Due to our extensive home-learning over the last few months, I am delighted to inform you that the full curriculum offer will be taught to all pupils. PE lessons are essential for the health and wellbeing of the pupils. Therefore, all pupils will have PE lessons but all sport will be non-contact.

The government's scientific advice has stated that there is not a need for in-class social distancing for primary pupils. We are pleased about this as younger children do find social distancing difficult. Social distancing will still play a part in St. Margaret Ward with its students and we will continue to promote this in Primary wherever possible. Teachers and support staff are advised to minimise the time they are closer than 1 metre to anyone, and away from colleagues as much as possible. This will be challenging for us! However, we have got to try to adapt to this 'new normal'. We are asking parents to not approach our staff. Any appointments need to be made through the school office. Most meetings will be held remotely.

We will be involved in the NHS Test and Trace system and swift action will be taken if required. If any action is needed, you will be informed immediately. Please ensure you follow any of the guidance we give you. Face coverings in school

will not be allowed on Public Health England advice. Secondary pupils that need to travel on a school minibus would need a face covering. The school will inform you when this is required.

Across the collegiate I always admire how smart our pupils and staff are. From September all children will need to be in full school uniform.

For the foreseeable future we will not be holding any large gatherings including assemblies and collective worship. All schools are being creative in their approach and will use digital means to ensure the pupils do not miss out.

We expect full attendance in September. Your child simply cannot afford to miss this invaluable time of their education. Some children have lost so much and from day 1 we will be working tirelessly to ensure each and every child catches up. I assure you that we understand your concerns but are confident that school can fully reopen safely. We are here for you. Please contact the school office with any concerns you may have.

One of our priorities will be ensuring everyone in y1 and above understand how to use Microsoft Teams and so if there is future need to lockdown we will be able to continue to offer lessons while children are at home.

Finally, once again, I want to say a huge thank you for all your support and patience during this most difficult time. I have been moved by the many positive comments passed to our schools and the appreciation of all the hard work the schools have done. I very much look forward to welcoming you all back in September where we will be able to pick up where we left off providing the excellent education we do in all our schools.

God Bless

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Beards', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Senior Executive Leader
Newman Catholic Collegiate