

Dear Parents and carers

I write to thank you for your considerable support and goodwill during these unprecedented, challenging times. Leaders remain hard at work to prepare for the smooth opening and operating of our schools in September.

There are some systems and issues which are particular to individual schools and sectors. Leaders will be writing to you with further specific updates this week. I write to highlight some common broad themes which we believe will be helpful to you.

1. It is important to note that advice and guidance from government continues to develop. There may well be continued changes to systems, protocols and expectations of us all.
2. Alongside national and local authorities we are working diligently to maximise the safety of staff and students. Clearly in schools generally and particularly in large ones, we cannot eliminate all risks to the health and safety of our community including from Covid19 transmission.
3. With your support we want to not only make the start of term as smooth and as secure as possible but to quickly develop a sense of excitement about the learning opportunities we are keen to re-provide.
4. I would like to draw your attention to the Trust's video which is available on our website. This details our general protocols and expectations for September. Further detail is contained within school level behaviour policies which are also on school websites.
5. Please note our policy in relation to facemasks and to our continued commitment to the highest standards of behaviour which we have come to expect at St Mary's College and all Trust primary schools. Reusable facemasks will be specially branded and given to students at St Mary's College and all staff across the Trust, for use on transport and in transition between areas of the school.

I look forward to welcoming staff and students back to our schools. We believe that on balance it is right for children to be back in school learning and developing in the widest sense amongst their peers and expert staff. Attendance is therefore critical, and we look for your support as we revert to our usual high expectations in this regard.

Kind regards



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