

# St Gabriel's

Roman Catholic High School



15 May 2020

Dear parents and carers

We write to you to update you, following the Government's announcements that some year groups will be allowed to attend school in the imminent future and to update you on the positive work which has been undertaken during this lockdown.

Firstly, during the lockdown, we have requested that our canopy extension to the dining hall commences early. This work will commence at the end of the month, now that construction workers have returned to work. Also, we have secured a fantastic new catering contract, meaning that not only will we have a new canopy, but the dining hall will be refurbished, the selling outlets will be completely updated and the menus will reflect up to date expectations of our students. The company we will be using are also extremely environmentally friendly!

We are also underway with bids to construct a chapel and to refurbish parts of the science department and food technology rooms. Even the stage curtains will be refurbished after many years of distinguished service!

Our staff have been working setting online work and completing new innovative curriculum implementation plans. We are raring to go!

Having met with the Secondary Head Teachers of Bury and the Local Authority, I can confirm that we are all working towards beginning some re-integration strategies, but they vary due to the fact that each school simply has a different lay out and different classroom capacity sizes.

As per my previous letter, due to social distancing requirements, this will be a huge challenge for all of us. For example, whilst maintaining social distancing, we are only able to fit 10 students in a classroom. This means that, whilst teachers usually teach classes of 25 to 30, we will either require 3 times as many staff, or will need to begin to work upon a rolling timetable, where only a percentage of the students attend school on certain days.

Other considerations we now need to address are as follows;

An in depth risk assessment of the school environment, including PPE for staff, one way systems and staggered toilet and hand wash breaks will be necessary.

A staggered start to the day, entering through different access points may be necessary.

Lunch will not be provided on site, as it is impossible to maintain social distance during the break. This will be the same in all secondary schools in Bury.

Students will remain in one room, whilst staff circulate and it is likely the school day will be shorter, or for example consist of two hour slots in either a morning or afternoon, with staggered start and finish times to avoid key commute times and that they can get home for something to eat.

Year 10 students will be allowed to attend school for optional 'face to face sessions' to work alongside their remote learning as laid out in the Government guidelines.

*"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full"*

Justice, Tolerance, Forgiveness and Generosity

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Children of Key workers will also be able to access in school supervision, wherever we have capacity. Therefore, we will be asking you to complete an online reply by **Tues 19th May** to allow us to calculate our timetable rota. To put this into context, 200 families replied before the lockdown to indicate they were key workers. We have over 200 students in Y10 also. If all those students request attendance at school, it is likely that due to staffing and rooming capacity with social distancing, students would only attend school for a limited time within a week (half Y10 attending for example Monday and Tuesday, the other Thursday and Friday), to enable us to room all students and to deep clean the school on Wednesday.

Additionally, we cannot guarantee that if you are a key worker your child will be in a classroom with children from their own year group. Since year 10 have their GCSEs next year, it is vital that we get them in as soon as logistically possible and back into their core subject areas. Therefore, key worker children in year 8 for example, may have to sit in a mixed year setting in order to complete their work. This will evolve as the Government release more information.

All students will be expected to attend in full uniform.

We will write to you again next week, once the risk assessment has taken place, but ask that you please complete the online reply in order that we can gauge uptake.

We would like to stress that whilst we will follow the risk assessment for all staff and students, the Covid virus is still prevalent and therefore, we cannot guarantee your child's safety against this illness. We do suggest that if you do wish to uptake our offer once school does re-open under Government instruction, that you purchase face masks for your child. However, we will not be insisting upon this.

Thank you most sincerely for your ongoing patience regarding this matter. We would like to reassure you that all the secondary schools are in the same position and are working together to find joint resolutions. Your child will not be disadvantaged in any way.

We look forward to communicating again very soon with you and we pray for all of you whose families have been affected by this pandemic virus, including my own family.

Your online reply can be completed by following the link below;

[Return to School Survey](#)

Please send copies of your ID or letter from place of employment stating your role to [stgabriels@bury.gov.uk](mailto:stgabriels@bury.gov.uk) .

Yours sincerely



Miss L Corrigan  
Headteacher