



St. Richard's Catholic College



A National Teaching School, a National Support School and a High Performing Specialist Science College



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Principal: D. Cronin, N.P.Q.H., M.A., B.Ed.

26th August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you and your family have had a lovely summer and I hope you have all kept in good health.

Further to my letter of 20th July [here](#) outlining brief details for the start of term and the wider opening of school to all pupils, I just want to alert you to some key details at this stage with full details to be sent to you on Tuesday, 1st September 2020.

Year 7 and 11 will start school on Friday, 4th September and Years 8, 9 and 10 will start on Monday, 7th September 2020. All pupils are to be in school by 8.40am.

In line with Government advice and Public Health England advice, we plan to run our normal six period day timetable with staggered breaks, lunch and a staggered departure from school. Pupils will work and socialise in their year group only and a one-way system will be introduced to minimise contact and the risk of contamination between pupils and staff. Staff have been working hard to ensure a strong recovery curriculum and pastoral support are in place. A revised extra-curricular programme will also be organised and Prep Club will run in Year Groups only.

The Health and Safety of all will be our number one priority hence our Risk Assessment for staff, pupils and visitors will be released via Edulink and the website this Friday, 28th August to allow you ample time as a family to read through it and familiarise yourself with its contents. On Tuesday, you will receive an updated Safety and Behaviour policy, a booklet containing Frequently Asked Questions and a link to a video for pupils and parents on how school will look and run on return. Please note that you, as parents/carers, will need to make an appointment to enter the school. Those parents/carers wishing to purchase uniform will be seen at the school gate or in the playground. If you can collect/purchase uniform on September 1st, 2nd or 3rd when there is just staff in school, then this would avoid congestion on the start dates. Clearly, this decision has had to be made for the health and safety of all and to support track and trace systems.

Additionally, I propose to make Ashdown Road a no-access route to parents'/carers' cars unless your child has a disability. Please drop off and collect in surrounding roads or preferably on the seafront near Sutton Place, TN40 1PD where there is ample space to social distance. The school bus will continue to collect from Ashdown Road. We are due to receive further updates about bus and train times this Friday so these will be included in Tuesday's letter. We will be signposting different year groups to catch different trains to ease congestion and the chance for pupils to interact with other year groups.

I will need you, as parents/carers, to support the school fully with safe travel and the health and safety measures to be put in place. We will continue to expect pupils to socially distance from each other and to practise good hand hygiene. Extra sanitiser stations are in place and the toilet blocks have been reallocated to reduce numbers using these facilities. Whilst the school has purchased



sanitiser, wipes, tissues, paper towels etc. for the care of all, I would recommend that all pupils carry a small bottle of sanitiser, a packet of tissues and a bottle (750ml) of water as part of their essential equipment. All pupils should also have a facial covering and a container to keep it in when not in use. Tuesday's letter will outline expectations with regard to the wearing of facial coverings but certainly pupils travelling on public transport will be expected to wear them for their safety.

With reference to the usual purchases that have to be made at the start of term (uniform and equipment), can I urge you to use SCOPAY as far as possible. (use the link 'On-line Payment' which can be found on the school website at : <https://www.strichardscc.com/school-life/uniform/>) If you do not have an activation code for SCOPAY, please request one at finance@strichardscc.com Alternatively, a cheque or money in a sealed envelope with the pupil's name would suffice. All pupils are expected to bring in £4 to cover some of the costs of all the licences we purchase for them eg revision sites as well as to pay for rough work books and a number of educational apps. Thank you for your attention to this.

If you are not yet signed up to ParentPay which is now the safest way of paying for school dinners, can I urge you to get in touch with IT services at ITservices@strichardscc.com Please note our new Year Seven group will receive a letter containing their activation codes for ParentPay on 4th September. Payment for school dinners on this day will be collected the following week.

Newsletter Number 7 was published on Friday 17th July and is available [here](#) in case you did not receive it. We will continue to publish a newsletter in the penultimate week of each term with two in the first term – Number 1 being published at the end of the first full week on Friday 11th September. Covid-19 letters and booklets on the website will now be archived and a 'Return to School' page will be opened so that I can write to you, as and when necessary, about updates to the Risk Assessment and School Life due to Covid-19.

As indicated in Newsletter 7, it would be really helpful if parents/carers were insisting on good sleep patterns this week and next so that all pupils are ready for learning. Additionally, any hair dyeing should be rectified and uniform and essential equipment purchased.

Along with all the staff, I am really looking forward to welcoming all the children back to school. This school thrives on being full of enthusiastic learners and all staff want to get back to teaching the pupils and supporting their well-being, including their wider development through clubs/activities. Rest assured that pupils will be prepared for a future lockdown so that, should it occur, their learning can continue remotely unhindered by some of the challenges that occurred in the early months of lockdown. Please keep the whole school community in your prayers.

Rest assured that your son/daughter will be looked after in our school community.

Yours sincerely



Miss D Cronin
Principal