

22 May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I write to update you on what we are doing at St Augustine's to support and educate our children at this strange and difficult time.

I am grateful for your overwhelming support for St Augustine's and its staff. They have gone beyond what was indicated by Government in terms of the amount of work being set, the response to completed work and the amount of contact with families.

I know some of you feel there has been too much work set. I think that's better than too little and it reflects the commitment of our teachers and our pursuit of high standards. Everyone doesn't have to complete everything. Please support your child as you think best. Without wishing to be condescending, you are doing a great job in difficult circumstances.

Half Term

The school will remain closed over half term including the Bank Holiday. Teachers won't be setting work and the office will be closed. We will start setting work and make plans to re-open for vulnerable groups and key worker children from 1st June 2020 with a view to welcoming these pupils from 8th June 2020. Please note that we need to know in advance if key worker and vulnerable pupils are attending so we can ensure appropriate, safe staffing levels and ensure social distancing.

Year 11 Results

The work to submit Centre Assessed Grades for Year 11 is almost complete. We cannot tell you what grades we have submitted. What I can tell you is that our teachers have looked closely at the evidence (work in books, test results, pupil tracking and effort grades) and submitted the grades we believe Year 11 students would have attained. This has been rigorously cross checked by senior staff and will be checked and signed off by me early next month. It has been a very rigorous and fair system. We will be in touch about how we will inform you of results as soon as we know.

Year 10

It is difficult to plan with confidence for Year 10 returning to school as the information and advice to schools and parents is conflicting and changeable but this is what we intend to do:

During the week beginning 1st June all Y10 students and their parents/carers will be contacted, there will also be a link to a survey from our social media and web sites. Pupils will be offered the opportunity to attend face to face learning sessions, which we are hoping will commence week beginning 8th June.

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These sessions will take place in small socially distanced groupings. There will be no mixing between groups. Pupils will not be in school for a normal school day and they will not have their normal timetable and may not have their subject teachers. The logistics of achieving this are complex and everything is dependent on Government instructions based on scientific evidence. At this stage there are few certainties.

What I can promise you is that detailed plans, will have a focus on the health, safety and wellbeing of pupils and staff and that what we do will have a positive impact on our children. Details will follow when they are finalised.

The Government has indicated that there are currently no plans to reopen secondary schools for other year groups (Years 7, 8 and 9) before the summer holidays. We will also make sure we maintain a balance which includes quality home learning so that all year groups continue to be supported and educated.

Social Media and the School Website

Please continue to keep an eye on our school website www.staug.org.uk and our social media accounts using Twitter and Facebook. Please do sign up for our Edulink app – pupils are able to contact teaching staff using this. Pupils can sign in using their school IT details and password. If you have any concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us at staugustine@staug.org.uk

And finally

All our plans and intentions are subject to change from events and Government instruction. We are endeavouring to do what is safe, sensible, workable and in the best interests of our children. Thank you for your continued support.

With prayers and best wishes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'G Lynch', written in black ink.

Mrs G Lynch
Headteacher