



Diocese of St. Albans



3rd July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. We are all delighted to hear that we will be able to re-open in September, with the aim of all students back full time. The Government guidance on this was published yesterday and we will be using this to plan for the re-opening. We will write to you in the summer holidays to explain how the guidance will be put into action in St Mary's.

Irrespective of the guidance, the start to the new school year is being slightly adjusted to account for the fact that the new Year 7 and new Year 12 students have not had their usual induction; I feel strongly that we must support their transition. This means that students in next year's Year 8, Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11 will not return on Friday 4 September, but will start one working day later, on Monday 7 September.

The days will look like this:

- **Thursday 3 September**
 - Year 7 only, all day for Induction Day 1 (there will be no early finish and no parent/carer tea)
- **Friday 4 September:**
 - New Year 7 all day for induction day 2 (all day)
 - Year 12 Induction Day (times: 9am - 12pm)
 - Year 13 Preparation day (times: 1pm - 4pm)
- **Monday 7 September:**
 - all years back all day

In other circumstances I would not have chosen this one working day delay to the start of the new school year for some year groups. However it is a priority that we have the time and space to support the 11 year olds joining us in Year 7, as well as the students joining Year 12, and give them the same high quality induction your child had, to settle in well to the school (something we were unable to do in June/July).

We are already planning how we support students next year (especially those in Year 11 and Year 13 ahead of the Summer 2021 exams) following this period of closure, and so were delighted to hear that the Government is setting aside £650 million for schools to do just this. We do not yet know the amount to be allocated to us, but they are asking individual schools to decide how it is spent, so we will be able to tailor our work to suit the needs of the students. We will contact parents/carers early in the new school year to explain how we will do this.

Yours faithfully

Nicholas Simms
Headteacher

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'An exceptionally inclusive and caring community' SIAMS Inspection 2020