

Ref: RV/hw

5 June 2020

Dear Parents

As we come to the end of our first week back after the break, I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and bring you up to date with some developments regarding the school's response to COVID-19. I do hope that you and your family are well and that you are able to remain positive throughout this difficult and trying time. It is lovely to see so much good work being celebrated on our school Twitter account and I am sure that you would want to pass on your gratitude to our hard working staff.

I can confirm that pupils in Year 7, 8 and 9 will, in all probability, not be returning to school before September 2020. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any concerns regarding your children's well-being or work. Can I thank you for all of your effort in supporting your child's learning from home. I do not under-estimate how difficult this has been and can I reassure you that your child's well-being takes precedent over the completion of their work. Have confidence, that as the parent, you know your child better than we do and will be able to gauge what is in their best interest; just do your best. We cannot wait until the school returns to some form of normality and we can be together again in our wonderful school.

Schools guidance: re-opening for Year 10 Pupils

Last week, Dr Sakthi Karunanithi, the Director of Public Health for Lancashire, advised that it was not yet safe in Lancashire for schools to open more widely than they are at present. He will review his advice on Monday 8 June, and if it changes, schools will be encouraged to take the decision to reopen to more pupils from 15 June. If the advice does not change, the guidance will be reviewed again on 15 June.

Dr Karunanithi's advice was based on the concern that two of the government's five tests were not being met in the county. Having reviewed the statistics which showed there had been an increase in confirmed positive cases of coronavirus at a time when the NHS Track and Trace system had launched, but was not fully operational, his professional opinion was that it was not yet safe for schools to open to more children.

Therefore, as you will be aware, we are not extending or widening school provision for Year 10 pupils until 15th June at the earliest. This decision is being reviewed on the 8th June and therefore the date of Year 10 pupils returning, in some way, may be delayed further. We will of course, contact Year 10 parents as soon as we have further news.

Latest DfE Guidance

The latest DfE guidance is available below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020>

We are working through this guidance in conjunction with advice from the local authority and the Romero Catholic Academy Trust and professional bodies.

Pupils Accessing Show My Homework

We continue to have a fantastic level of engagement from pupils with their home learning, with 90% of our pupils logging into SMH every week. With your continuing support and guidance at home and

the fabulous work being set by their class teachers, we are giving our pupils every opportunity to make great progress in all subjects. As this period of home learning continues, staff are investigating new and interactive ways of delivering the curriculum including Loom videos where teachers explain difficult concepts, interactive APPs and virtual classrooms. Please do not hesitate to contact us with feedback or queries regarding SMH and home learning.

RSE Survey for Parents

From September 2020 the teaching of Relationship and Sex education, along with Health education will be made mandatory in all secondary schools. We are using this as an opportunity to build on the existing PSHE curriculum. Parents will have the right to withdraw their child from the Sexual Education series of lessons should they wish. However, we often find that most parents, once they know and understand the content and value of what is being taught, feel this unnecessary. Although the curriculum is specified by the Government, we will deliver this incorporating the Catholic teaching. As consultation with you is vital, please could you complete the survey by following this link. Please complete before Friday 19 June 2020.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=xfsmUvH8MU6AWufP-sj0KhC6qtRI_ClkjQpLjrmBk6FUNFVWVjE2Vk9SWElYODdaUE1KRuhWWFU4Ri4u

Year 7-10 Form Tutors

A reminder that Year 7-10 form teachers are 'checking-in' with their form pupils each Wednesday. Please encourage your child to respond to their form tutor.

A reminder for Year 8 parents

A letter was emailed to you on Monday in regards to Year 8 into Year 9 options. Further information and another link to the form has been added to Show My Homework. Please ensure that all pupils have selected their options by Friday 12th June.

Planned INSET Day – 26 June 2020

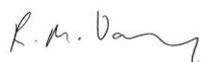
As you will be aware, school was closed to pupils on Friday 26 June 2020 for a staff INSET day. Therefore, work will not be set on this date however the school will remain open for vulnerable pupils/children of key workers.

Todmorden Bus Service

We have heard that parents of children who use the Todmorden school bus have been informed by Calderdale Council that the Council are no longer providing this service. The Governors of Blessed Trinity have decided that as from 1 September 2020, Blessed Trinity will take on the responsibility of this contract. Pupils will continue to pay for the service in the way that they have done previously and the service will continue as normal.

To clarify, the **Blessed Trinity BT1 Todmorden school service will continue, as normal next year.**

Yours sincerely



Richard Varey
Headteacher