

# NEWSLETTER

ALL SAINTS

Issue 8 July 2020

### **Dear Parents and Carers**

Just yesterday all Headteachers received a letter from Gavin Williamson, the Secretary of State for Education. In it he states, 'We all know the impact that lost time in education can have on our children's outcomes. That is why I am asking you to plan for full opening to all pupils in all year groups from the beginning of the autumn term...I would like schools to start planning now on the assumption of full reopening from the start of the autumn term.'

Many of you have asked what our plans are for September and I give you my assurance that if the general trend of transmission of Covid -19 continues to decrease we will aim to do as directed by Gavin Williamson, 'Full reopening from the start of autumn term', which will be Monday 7th September at 8.30am.

We will obviously aim to put in place sufficient measures to keep students and staff safe which currently means keeping year groups together though distanced from other year groups but we will need to listen very carefully for advice as it is being released, no doubt over the summer period.

It is frustrating to not be able to give a definitive answer to questions but as we have all realised over the last few months —there are no definite answers in this ever-changing situation, and what I say to you now may not be what I have to say to you at the end of the summer holidays!

On a positive note I do want to move the students and staff forward so we return to normal learning where we can. We cannot dwell on this debilitating time, though my thoughts are with you all if you have lost loved ones. We must focus on the future!

Over the lockdown period the staff have worked tirelessly to provide lessons to students five times a day. They may not have been the quality of learning they would get in the classroom but from what I hear no other schools have had this rigorous approach. Only 15% of lessons are not engaged with which is less than one lesson a day where students do not register. In other words, most students engage in four or five lessons a day.

The teaching staff have also been re-writing the whole curriculum by producing a booklet-styled approach to a creative curriculum. Behind this lies the desire to make school a place *all* students will want to be, having missed six months of being on site. We hope the creative curriculum re-ignites their passion for learning with a 'recovery' curriculum. Our recovery curriculum will be focussed on filling gaps in students' learning and metacognition where they think about the ways they are learning to see the bigger picture through the use of mind-maps and knowledge organisers.

I would also like to thank the support staff who have shown so much care having phoned students on a regular basis to ensure there are no problems with accessing the learning. I could not fail to mention our amazing IT team who many of you will have met at the doorstep as they drop off and pick up equipment that needs fixing! Finally, I wish to thank David Fraser and the rest of the Governing Body, who have worked behind the scenes checking risk assessments to keep us all safe and assisting with interviews for new staff. Without this dedication I would not be able to tell you the good news that we are fully-staffed for September!

It has been an amazing team effort and as part of that team I would like to thank you all for the support you have given your children at home and to the staff. It is a privilege to be part of such a supportive community as we continue to move All Saints Academy forward.

Any queries over this period please send them to <u>parentcontact@asadunstable.org</u> and we will endeavour to keep an eye out and answer them! I will contact you all on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September to update you.

Please have as good a summer break as possible, and if lockdown has taught us all one thing, it is that our families and loved ones are very precious to us, so enjoy and cherish every moment!

With my very best wishes for the summer

**Liz Furber** Executive Principal



# NEWSLETTER



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#### **Dear Parents and Carers**

This is my final newsletter article of a year that I hope we will never have to experience again. The last four months have been exceptional times for everyone, and my first hope is that you, your family and friends have all managed to stay safe and well. It is sadly inevitable, in such a large community, that people will have succumbed to the virus. If this has impacted on your family, can I express sincere condolences on behalf of everyone at the Academy.

The decision to fully close the Academy immediately back in March was not one that was taken easily. However, I believe it was absolutely the right thing to do to ensure the safety and well-being of everyone. You will be aware that after half-term, when the spread of the virus had started to decline and it was clear that we wouldn't be fully opening until September, we welcomed back our more vulnerable and key worker children, together with students in Years 10 and 12, whilst observing proper social distancing protocols.

If it is possible to have a positive outcome from this whole situation, it has to be the way in which we have been able to provide as near a normal timetable as possible, each day, every day since the end of March. Two years ago, Mrs Furber asked the governing body whether we could invest in providing an iPad for every student to facilitate all aspects of their learning. This involved a significant investment, but little did we know how invaluable they would be during this pandemic. The level of engagement by students with their teachers over these past few months has been truly amazing. The statistics on student engagement that we collate are very detailed but, put simply, the average participation in all lessons over this entire period has been around 80%. Studies suggest that even in independent schools, the average level of engagement is about 70% and this drops to around 20% for most state secondary schools.

We are not into the business of points scoring against other schools because everyone has chosen to address this issue in different ways. What I am exceedingly proud of at All Saints is the way in which learning has continued to be delivered; the evidence of that is clear for everyone to see, not only from the levels of engagement, but through the examples of work that are being shared on our Twitter feed. And that learning could not have taken place without the tremendous support of you, as parents and carers. I know on occasions that issues, often technical ones, have got in the way, but your support and co-operation is genuinely appreciated.

No-one knows what the coming weeks hold for us as the country tries to return to a sense of normality. At the moment, we are in the process of planning to welcome back our current and new students in September. In the meantime, as well as thanking you and your children for your support, I want to close by expressing the sincere thanks of the all governors to Liz Furber and her colleagues for the utter professionalism and dedication they have shown since the end of March in ensuring that learning and well-being have been at the centre of everything that they do.

I wish you and your families all the very best for what we will still call the 'summer holidays'.

**David Fraser** Chair of Governors



#### Sixth Form

It is good to see so many of our Year 12 students back in school. Although it is very strange to teach socially distanced, it is good to be back to some face to face, rather than virtual, lessons. Although this has been a difficult time for all, I am very proud of the way that Sixth Form students have continued with their virtual studies and the Academy's policy of all students having a laptop has benefited this enormously.

## Staying at All Saints Sixth Form

If you are still unsure of your destination for study after GCSEs, please contact Mr Lee (<u>alee2@asadunstable.org</u>) or Mr Miller (<u>smiller2@asadunstable.org</u>) to discuss your options.

We are currently offering the following subjects for our Year 12 students this September.

OPTION A	OPTION B	OPTION C	OPTION D	OPTION E
Computer Science	Chemistry	Maths	Art	Psychology
English	Film Studies	Sociology	Biology	
Sport	Sport		Business Studies	
History				

#### Uniform

Our uniform supplier, Prestige, has informed us that they are operating an appointment system for families wishing to try on uniform before purchasing; these can be booked through their website. If you know the sizes you require, you can use their online ordering and delivery system, also available through their website <a href="http://www.prestigedesignww.co.uk">http://www.prestigedesignww.co.uk</a>.

Please be aware that our uniform is now being stocked at their Barton branch located at Unit 12, Barton Industrial Estate, Barton-Le-Clay, Bedford, MK45 4RP. This is to support social distancing guidance as their Barton shop is larger.

Prestige have asked that families do not visit the shop without an appointment and that only one adult accompanies the children needing uniform.

## **Lost Property**

As students did not have the opportunity to look through the lost property items before lockdown, this will be on display for the first week of term in September.

After this time, any unclaimed items will be disposed of.

### **Destinations**

It was great to see our current Year 13 students again this week and listen to their plans for September. With the majority of students going to university this year with great offers including some unconditional offers. Their hard work over the past 2 years really has paid off.

Good luck to each and every one of them whether it be at university, apprenticeship or joining the world of full time work.



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# **Looking Ahead**

Thursday 3rd September & Friday 4th September INSET Days

(Academy closed to students)

**Monday 7th September**First Day of Term for Students

Wednesday 9th September
Whole School Photographs

Thursday 10th September
Y9 Immunisations

Wednesday 7th October
Prospective Parents' Evening

Monday 26th October
Half Term



## ~ REMINDER ~

Students return on Monday 7th September at 8.30am

We will notify parents/carers if this changes

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