

St. Bernard's High School

A CATHOLIC ACADEMY FOR ARTS AND SCIENCE



Milton Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex SS0 7JS

T 01702 343583 F 01702 390201

W www.stbernardswestcliff.org.uk

Head Teacher: Mr Tony Sharpe, BA (Hons), M Mus, M Ed, NPQH

26th February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

You will be aware of the announcement made on Monday by the Prime Minister, regarding the wider re-opening of schools. This announcement contains early indications of what will now happen but provides no detail around such matters as protocols for the mass testing of students. We are expecting further details in the next few days.

In the past we have seen some variance between the public announcements made by government ministers, and the guidance subsequently produced by the Department for Education. Therefore, please do not assume that what has been announced will necessarily translate, exactly as presented, into what will actually happen.

A good example of this variance can be found in the announcement that all students will return to school from Monday 8th March. Although this suggests that all students will be in school from this date, this will not be the case for secondary schools, which have been advised to phase the return of students, in order to facilitate mass testing. Therefore, it is highly likely that your son or daughter will return to school later that week, rather than on the Monday.

We await further details on various other aspects of re-opening, including the wearing of face coverings. We hope to bring firm news early next week.

The provision for the children of key workers will continue until Friday 5th March. It will then cease in order to allow the school to open fully to all students, in the phased manner described above.

Further details regarding the award of examination grades for our GCSE, AS and A-level students are currently being released by Department for Education. St Bernard's will need time to digest the guidance and give a fully-considered response. This will be communicated to parents at the earliest opportunity.

Please encourage your son or daughter to fully engage with remote learning until the date arrives for the return to school. We hope that you and your family keep safe and well.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AS', written over a set of horizontal lines.

Mr A Sharpe
Headteacher