

16<sup>th</sup> July 2020



Dear parent and student,

We have reached the end of term in what has been a very strange and difficult year. Once again I would like to thank parents for their support and understanding at this time. Also thanks to all the students who have engaged well with online learning. There have been many stories of positive praise for those who have been working hard, examples of excellent work submitted and some positive dialogue with teachers who have been in contact with students. Despite this, we know it has not been the same and that not all students have been able to complete all work set for a multitude of reasons. For a school that has made such great strides and makes such a difference to young people it has been difficult to have the sort of contact and provide the full support we would have liked.

For obvious reasons we really welcome the government announcement that all children in all year groups will return to full time education from September and we have been working on the plans and provision to ensure this is possible in as safe an environment as possible.

In our planning we have followed closely the government guidance and have made adaptations to our provision to ensure that each year group will work in a separate bubble without contact with other year groups when we return. I will write to you nearer the time to confirm some further detail about the safety measures in place and the other expectations and details for arrival and departure which will be different to normal. Extra-curricular and after school activities will not be taking place during the first half-term and may resume after the October holidays, in line with government guidance.

Although we understand that some parents will have concerns about a return in terms of health and safety we can assure you that we will be taking all the necessary measures to follow the guidance. This will include an expectation for families to self-isolate and use the available testing if there are any symptoms.

It has been announced that attendance at school will be compulsory again from September and we will expect all students to return. We feel this is extremely important to all young people as the period of lockdown has presented so many barriers to learning that we need to overcome. Upon students return in September, pre-Covid-19 high standards, routines and expectations for behaviour, punctuality and uniform will remain in place at Cathedral Academy. Therefore, please can you ensure your child is fully equipped with correct uniform, appearance and footwear.

We are very keen to get all students back to school, to continue and enhance their learning. The period of closure has meant that there will be some gaps in knowledge and we have a plan to address this, inspire our students and get them fully back on track. We are really excited about seeing them all again and hope that we can avoid future lockdown situations despite much of that being out of our control. We have been working in school to ensure that in any event we are prepared and that the online learning resources for any future closure or anyone self-isolating are more interactive, more engaging and more useful than ever before. We understand also that not all students have adequate access to ICT facilities and although many do, we are considering how we might help with that also.

For now I want to wish all families the very best for the summer, hoping that all stay safe and enjoy a break from home schooling. I look forward to September and seeing the academy community together again.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. H. Marsh', followed by a small dot.

Rob Marsh  
Principal

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