



**Email from Matthew Bartlett, Head Master**

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

**St Aloysius' College Re-Opening**

The DFM spoke in the Scottish Parliament at 2.30pm today. He stated that it was the Scottish Government's wish to bring back children into full time schooling 'as soon as possible and as soon as it is safe to do so.' This will of course be a response to the public outcry that in the state system many pupils will only be receiving 2 days of education in school per week or will have to endure a one week in, one week off education. As you know, at St Aloysius' our current planning will allow all young people from KG-S1 inclusive to be in school full time from 13<sup>th</sup> August and for S2-S6 between 3.5 and 4 days a week depending on year group. This is more than any other major independent school in Glasgow and it has resulted in further young people being assessed and accepted into the College so that a number of year groups are now completely full and there is just limited space in remaining year groups.

Should social distancing reduce to 1.5m, then we would be able to bring back the whole school for full time education. We clearly hope that this will be the case for the benefit of every single one of our pupils. The DFM stated that there will be a first review of this next week and ongoing through the summer. He makes three conditions for a full return of schools:

1. Infection rates must be sufficiently low to provide assurance that the virus can be controlled
2. Early warning of issues and rapid action such as test and protect must be available
3. There must be the right protective measures and risk assessments in place in schools to keep everyone safe

Whilst the statement is a positive one, at the moment it is aspiration born out of political expediency, rather than a confirmation that schools will be able to open fully in August. I wanted however to confirm that as soon as we are allowed to reduce distances or conditions change we would reopen fully. Secondly we already have all the protective measures and risk assessments in place to ensure that everyone is kept safe. I intend to write to parents by the end of this week with full details of pick up and drop off details and our plans for the first week of term in both Junior and Senior School. Other updates will follow, all informed by the latest guidance from government. However you can rest assured that our plans are fully in place of the reopening as I outlined in my last letter to everyone and that we are looking forward to welcoming all our students back to Hill Street in August.

Kind regards

**Matthew Bartlett**

**Head Master**