

Letter from Matthew Bartlett, Head Master

Wednesday 15th July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that this finds you well and safe as we emerge out of lockdown. I wanted to just provide a brief update for you after three weeks since we broke up for the summer vacation.

The College is being prepared for reopening. Rooms are being reordered, deep cleaning is taking place and everywhere has been decluttered. Good progress is being made by our janitors and cleaners to get everything ready in clear time for August. Our new one way system to avoid crowding in corridors and a staggered series of breaks is already set up.

Currently, we are preparing for reopening with 2m social distancing and you have already received all the details about what this would mean. We now know that we will not receive an update from the First Minister before 30th July. We expect to receive detailed guidance about school reopening either at that point or possibly a few days beforehand. Once we receive that final guidance we can make any adaptations needed as we are already appropriately organised and all our ground work has been completed. We expect guidance about sport and travel arrangements around the same time.

If social distancing in schools is reduced to 1.5m or less, then we will be able to reopen the Senior School for the full week for all our pupils. The Junior School (KG-P7) is already able to reopen fully even with 2m distancing. There will of course be adaptations and we have these in draft form so that we will be 'good to go' as soon as guidance is issued. What I can reassure you of is that there will be no delay and all the systems are already in place.

Given the timings are dictated by the First Minister's announcement and the accompanying guidance, it is my intention to write to all parents/carers on **Monday 3rd August** to confirm all the final details for the autumn term. I am sure you will understand I don't wish to burden you with lots of detail to read now only to then need to adjust it and cause confusion!

I hope this will give you reassurance and provide a suitable timescale to prepare for the start of term and coming back to Hill Street.

Please continue to keep safe and well in these challenging times

Kindest regards

