



15th May 2020

Dear all

I hope my latest message finds you and yours safe and well.

This week there has seen a flurry of press activity and speculation as talk of schools and colleges reopening gains momentum.

This has been accompanied by a series of statements and counter statements from various stakeholders suggesting what unlocking lockdown may look like for education.

In amongst all this uncertainty I wanted parents and carers to know that, at Our Lady and St Bede Catholic Academy, we are determined to ensure that all our young people come through these strange times as unscathed as possible.

We will continue to work in partnership with families and take advice from the Government, SAGE and Public Health authorities to ensure we provide a safe and caring environment for our young people when they eventually return to an on-site learning routine.

I appreciate that, at the moment, these are uncertain, anxious and frustrating times for parents and carers and I thank you for your support and patience in these unprecedented times.

Further meetings are planned this afternoon between scientific advisors and the DfE to hopefully give further clarity around what are deemed safe and acceptable social and educational re-engagement procedures. When they are shared with schools, we will be in a position to give you further information around how we start to re-engage on-site learning for our pupils.

In a message to our pupils this morning and attached for your information, I talked about how proud and impressed we have all been with the determined way they have gone about and handled the new and different challenges Covid-19 has presented.

I also commended them on the quality of work they have produced remotely over the past weeks and for their strength of character, emotional resilience and willingness to adapt to new ways of working. As a school, we recognise that the vital ingredient here has been the strength of partnership between families and school during these strange times and for that we thank you.

So, as we begin as a country to implement the transition into the re-engagement phase for schools, I look forward to continuing to work with our families to ensure we provide a safe, supportive and successful educational experience for our young people.

I will continue to provide further updates when information and plans are finalised but for now send you and yours the best of wishes.

Have a lovely weekend

Mo Wilkinson
Head teacher