



St Columb's College


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31st March 2021

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s)/Carer(s) and Pupils

I am writing to you to set out our plans for the return to school of our **Years 8-11** pupils on Monday 12th April 2021. As we work towards this date – and beyond – I want to assure you that our main priority will be to maximise the safety of each member of our *#collegecommunity*.

As part of our planning we are reissuing our **Roadmap for Reopening** (available on our App and on the school website: <https://www.stcolumbs.com/for-parents/covid19-roadmap-for-reopening>) which has been updated and which contains *essential* advice for each member of the *#collegecommunity* on how to keep safe. Please read the **Roadmap** carefully and ensure that your son does the same before his return.

First of all, I want to let you know just how excited we are to be welcoming our pupils back to school. They have engaged wonderfully well during the most recent period of remote learning, but their real educational 'home' is here with us and we cannot wait for face-to-face learning to recommence.

All necessary risk assessments have been reviewed and updated to ensure that current health and safety advice, legislation and guidance is fully adhered to. The school will continue to be cleaned on a daily basis and additional cleaning staff will still be on site throughout the school day.

As you are aware, our Board of Governors made the wearing of face coverings by pupils compulsory throughout the school. A similar decision was subsequently taken by the Executive and so your son **must** come to school every morning equipped with a face covering (and a spare) as well as hand sanitiser and tissues. Now, more than ever, it is essential that we all do everything that we can to protect ourselves and each other from infection.

Please note that as the health and safety of everyone remains paramount, pupils contravening the Code of Conduct around health and safety protocols, will be sanctioned immediately.

The arrangements for pupils entering and exiting the school that we introduced last August remain in place and the details are clearly laid out within the updated **Roadmap**. Years 8-10 pupils will continue to be accommodated in the upper part of the school building and Year 11s will be located in the lower part of the building. The entire school building will continue to operate a one-way system.

We have spent a significant amount of time planning for the return of our Years 8-11 pupils. All four year groups will be involved in an engaging and informative induction programme upon returning to school; this will enable them to reacquaint themselves with the norms of school life. There will be an ongoing focus on health, safety, and wellbeing – and we will continue to reinforce to all our pupils the importance of adhering to social distancing protocols, personal hygiene and proper etiquette regarding sneezing and coughing.

Furthermore, as part of their re-integration into the life of our *#collegecommunity*, we intend engaging our Key Stage 3 pupils in a series of connected learning projects for the first two weeks. This **Project Fortnight** will allow these young men to have an enjoyable and common start to Term 3 with a focus upon skills, creativity and fun in a number of their subjects. Across the Key Stage 3 curriculum, there



will be a restorative approach in our classrooms, one that will seek to re-engage our pupils with learning while simultaneously rebuilding their confidence. This restorative approach will be replicated in our Year 11 classrooms as well.

Of course, no pupil who is showing symptoms of COVID-19 should be sent to school **at any time**. Protocols for individuals who become symptomatic on site will continue to be clearly communicated on a regular basis. Everyone will be supported in understanding the symptoms to look for and clear advice will be given on how to respond if symptoms become apparent on site.

Please note that our *Working Policy on Visitors and Parental Contact* remains in place. I would ask that you follow its guidelines absolutely when and where required.

As always, we will continue to keep you updated via our school App, website, Facebook page and Twitter account; please ensure that you are 'following us' so that all information is immediately available to you.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your perseverance, support and understanding during what has been a very challenging time for all of us. By continuing to collaborate effectively we will undoubtedly overcome the challenges that face us.

Finally, I wish you and your loved ones a Happy, Holy and safe Easter break.

Yours faithfully

FJM Madden
Principal