



# St Martin's School

**Ysgol Martin Sant**

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Headteacher *Prifathro*: Mr. L. Jarvis

3 June 2020

To: Parents / Guardians

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Following the Education Minister's decision on school reopening to enable voluntary attendance before the summer to check in, catch up and prepare, I thought it would be useful to share our current plans that are developing in preparation for any potential reopening of schools.

It is heartening to see that the Welsh Government seems to be considering aspects of school reopening intelligently and based upon a hierarchy of decisions related to science and medical information available relating to what is and is not known about how the virus is behaving in Wales and around the world currently.

There also seems to be a recognition that schools will need to be flexible in their approaches and at different times may reopen partially and then have to close or may open in some areas but not others whilst at certain times, if the virus peaks again, that they may open fully and close fully if a second phase hits the country.

It is a given at present that social distancing will need to continue alongside the strategy of frequent and effective hand washing.

Our current plans, which are constantly evolving, take into account these two aspects and the priority of keeping staff and pupils safe at all times.

To some they may seem overly cautious but provide us with a strong foundation of safe working practices which we can adapt as and when required.

## **Our School plans regarding continuity of learning**

The focus for all of us will be upon how we as teachers and leaders can progress young people's learning and wellbeing whilst having very tight restrictions in place.

Our school initially will have a very different purpose and that will be based upon a recovery curriculum that supports the gaps inherent in pupils' learning and skill development alongside a supportive wellbeing system.

We will have a major piece of work to undertake in getting pupils reengaged firstly and to consider what groups of learners require specific support.

**Our core purpose will be** upon the delivery of a recovery curriculum heavily reliant upon wellbeing intertwined with learning

We will need to plug gaps in knowledge and the fall back in skills development - for whatever form of exams will exist next year as some revisions to exams are being considered.

We will most probably adopt a tutoring style of teaching using our time to model key concepts and difficult procedures and the outcome will most likely be a mix of distance learning, video modelling, study groups via google hangouts and didactic teaching.

Teaching will not look as it has previously at first and we will not be able to undertake:

- Group work
- Sharing of equipment - all pupils need to bring their own equipment
- Physical marking of books

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Raising Standards –



- Interaction which entails being within 2 metres of each other
- No sharing of computer keyboards for pupils
- There will be no PE lessons involving physical contact
- No assemblies or staff meetings will be held
- Sadly no trips or foreign visits initially until guidance is developed
- On site activities will cease such as forest schools and other such activities

We are all concerned for our own children re-entering a school environment and you will no doubt want to know how we will manage pupils when they attend.

To reassure you all, we will be implementing the following procedures

- Entry and vetting (health checks) on arrival and entry into school will exist for pupils and staff following a strict set of procedures.
- We will be recommending that all pupils wear masks
- No behaviour that undermines the safe running of the school will be tolerated. Pupils who do not follow the safety procedures will not be permitted on site to safeguard staff and students alike.
- Social distancing (2 metres) will be adhered to at all times - markers will be in place and classrooms that are in operation have been reshaped to accommodate social distancing safely. Our largest classroom can accommodate 9 and average room 5.
- There will be a reduced number of classrooms in operation and set up in an exam hall style for example, one top floor old building and one bottom. This will be replicated in the new building and science. We will also have dedicated provision for our ALN learners in the first instance.
- Unstructured time will not exist and most likely we will operate part days and rotas for staff and pupils to come into school.
- Each floor will have a designated staff and pupil toilet and a dedicated toilet attendant to maintain high standards of hygiene at all times.
- No sharing of equipment or loaning of items will be permitted.
- Uniform will be relaxed until full return to school due to the need to wash clothes daily in order to reduce the potential cross contamination into the home, community and school. Pupils can wear their own clothes to school until further notice.
- Fire alarms - designated separate spaces for classes to evacuate to will be in place with markers
- One way system will be in place and staggered entry and exit will occur

All staff will be wearing full PPE which will include coveralls, face masks and face shields, gloves. Shields have been manufactured and will be on teachers' desks and sanitisation stations will be in all used classrooms.

Teachers and support staff have their own childcare needs as keyworkers and will only be able to come to work if they have suitable childcare facilities. We will be providing limited childcare provision on school site in the school house previously renovated as the school's sixth form centre for our staff to help them back to work.

This will enable us to operate larger staff teams and support our dedicated team of staff.

**Please be assured that any return to school will be carefully managed and undertaken in a phased way with** Teachers back first in teams and shifts of staff in these teams operating so that there is less chance of cross contamination, this will be the same for senior team, site and admin staff. **Pupils will have a classroom base and** teachers will move not pupils. This will be undertaken longer term as we will most likely operate a reduced tutoring style approach at first to accommodate the check in catch up and prepare model. Physical meetings - in person will not happen with parents or any visitors to site. These will not be permitted but instead will be undertaken via Google Hangouts

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Raising Standards –

**Our administrative staff and usual welcoming approach with our friendly receptionist will not be in operation at first.**

- A physical reception will not exist initially-this will operate as the medical health check location and only point of entry and exit for staggered start and finish times.
- No visitors will be permitted on site
- Administrative staff will work in teams as teachers and site staff will. All communication will need to be electronic.

This initial overview will be developed as we progress to some form of schooling and as we progress through this time we will aim to keep you all updated with bulletins such as this.

For now, I would be grateful if you begin to prepare your child for such a school environment and thank you for continuing to work with us on our distance learning work. Distance learning, independence and engagement will be key to our children's success and our pursuit of continuing to develop their skills and enjoyment of their education

Please do not feel any pressure for your child to attend school until you as a parent feel confident in about their safety. We will continue to deliver online learning and wellbeing provision and are here to support in whatever way we can.

Further organisational details will be shared with you via email shortly.

Stay safe

Yours sincerely



Mr L Jarvis

Headteacher

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