

St Wilfrid's Catholic School

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Diocese of Arundel & Brighton and West Sussex County Council

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Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you are all staying safe and well during this difficult period.

You will undoubtedly be aware that on Tuesday, the Prime Minister announced in a press conference, that it is the government's "hope to begin opening schools on Monday 8th March". Yet again, you heard it at the same time I and my colleagues did. Since then, and despite requests, there have been no further details published to support either his statement at the press conference, or his earlier statement that day in the House of Commons.

What would have been more helpful is a statement on the conditions which would need to have been met for schools to allow all/more students to return. By suggesting a date, there has been much subsequent speculation, and depending upon what media reports you may have read, seen or heard, you could be forgiven for thinking that all students will be returning to school on Monday 8th March. This is simply not the case.

I fully appreciate that without any specific details, any further speculation in the coming days/weeks will only create further uncertainty and apprehension. Please be assured that I will inform you as soon as I am able once the details of the "what next" are made available.

To try and give you an idea of the timescales, the summary below may be of help regarding when further details are expected to be made available:

Week beginning 22nd February:

- Publication of details of the arrangements for allowing more/all students to return to school
- Publication of the outcome of the consultation for the awarding of qualifications this summer

Beyond stating the above, I would only be entering into speculation and that would not be helpful for anyone. In the meantime, we will continue to regularly review our online learning to ensure that we continue to provide a high standard of provision and support. The levels of student engagement are extremely high and it will be important that this continues in the coming weeks; please pass on my congratulations to your sons/daughters for this. I know it isn't easy for anyone but hopefully we will soon have a clearer picture of the way ahead, and be able to look forward to having everyone back in school once the necessary conditions have been met.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Michael Ferry
Headteacher