



# Thornleigh Salesian College

Headteacher  
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Dear Parent/Carer

As we come to the end of the most extraordinary academic year we have ever seen, I wanted to take the opportunity to write to you to close the year and to extend my thanks to you. At the start of the year we could not have possibly anticipated the way that the year would unfold. We, as a school community, grieved the loss of Mr Schofield and Mr Vosper, both teachers who touched the lives of so many young people and changed them for the better. We had a visit from Ofsted, who recognised the remarkable work that goes on here each day. We followed this in November with a much more welcome visit from the Salesian Rector Major where we officially opened our refurbished Chapel-this was a truly memorable event and a real highlight in the history of our school.

We returned in January ready for our final push with Year 11 and 13 to prepare for their exams when the world started to change. The announcement from the government in March about school closures and examinations was such a shock for those year groups especially and I must pay tribute to all of them who have coped with such a change in a remarkable way-I spoke to them all before they left and told them that they are history-makers-they will tell their grandchildren about 2020 in years to come. Those students will receive their examination results in August. We wish them all well. A separate letter has gone out about the plans for the results days.

Over the months that we have all had to live and work differently, everyone in our community has responded in such a positive way; students, staff, parents and I am genuinely grateful for everyone's contribution. Many members of our community have faced really difficult circumstances and our thoughts and prayers are with all those that have suffered in any way.

The end of the academic year always brings some staff changes, less so this year than many, but some significant changes nonetheless as we say goodbye especially to Mr Passarello who has taught at Thornleigh for the past 19 years and in recent years has led our Sixth Form. Mr Passarello is moving on to take up the post of Deputy Headteacher at St Matthews RC High school in Manchester. I would like to thank him for all that he has done for our school community over many years and wish him every success as he starts this new chapter.

I would like to take the opportunity to remind you of some things prior to September and to inform you of some of the additional new changes that we have had to introduce.

- All uniform and appearance rules remain the same. Please ensure that your child's hair is one natural colour and not cut in an extreme style for their return in September. No jewellery is allowed so please allow time for any new piercings to be healed ready for our return to school.
- All students need to be in plain black school shoes. No trainers/leisure shoes or boots. I have enclosed a full uniform list for you.
- Our rules on mobile phones remain the same. Whenever a student is on our school site their phone must be switched off and out of sight.
- All students will need a school bag. We will provide a basic equipment wallet for all students which will remain in school but students will need their own calculator, a maths kit and any other stationery they usually have, every day.



- The school canteen will be operational in September but with a much more limited menu. Students in Years 7-9 will not be able to access the canteen at break time and so should bring their own snack to school-these cannot be shared with other students.
- From September we will not be processing cash payments in school so we are asking that all payments, including lunch money be done online. I have enclosed a reminder of how to access school gateway in order to help you with this.
- A number of parents contacted school following our announcement about re-opening in September concerned about their child travelling in a 'mixed bubble' on the school buses. We are not able to increase our bus service but I can reassure you that the government advice is that as long as face masks are worn then this is an acceptable form of transport if there are no other options for your child. If your child can get to school another way then can I encourage you to do this in order to relieve pressure on the bus service.
- We have developed a new behaviour policy to incorporate measures to keep our school as safe as possible for everyone. We will send this out to you in separate correspondence and will ask you to respond to that so that we know everyone understands our expectations.
- The term starts for Year 7 and 12 on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September at 8.45am. For Years 8, 9 and 10 on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September at 8.45am and for Year 11 and 13 on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September at 8.45am.

We are acutely aware that this has been a very difficult period for everyone and that school in September is going to look significantly different, but we are well prepared to ensure that all our students re-adjust quickly to school life and get back into a routine. If you have got any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us so that we can address any issues as soon as possible. For those families who are eligible for free school meals, the voucher system will continue over the summer. For this reason Urban Outreach have adapted their 'summer lunch' project this year. For more information about this, [click here](#), the scheme this year extends beyond those eligible for free school meals. In addition, Bolton Council have a helpline available for families facing difficulties linked with the pandemic. You can contact them on 01204 337221.

Can I once again thank you for your ongoing support, not only during the duration of school closure but throughout the academic year. We are fortunate to have parents who are as supportive and committed as you.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to watch our end of year service then you can see it here, [Video](#).

All that remains is for me to wish you a very happy summer and I look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you in September.

Yours faithfully



Mrs A O'Callaghan  
Headteacher

