

ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL

UPPER CHAPEL STREET · NEWRY · CO. DOWN NORTHERN IRELAND · BT34 2DT

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25th June 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope you and your family are keeping safe and well.

Firstly, I would like to sincerely thank you for supporting your daughter over the last 14 weeks while she has been completing her online learning at home. I have no doubt it has been difficult and challenging for all families. Our staff appreciate your continued support.

Unfortunately, your daughter may not be returning to school following our normal school arrangements due to the current Department of Education guidance. Under the current guidance we would be unable to start our school year with a normal timetable or with everyone in attendance each day. As a result of the current 1m social distancing rule and other health and safety restrictions we may be starting the school year with each Year Group attending two days per week. However, we all hope that the guidance changes and evolves over the summer allowing us all to return to normality in September.

We have recently received some guidance from the Department of Education. However, I do feel at this stage it is important that we have a temporary plan in place that meets the current social distancing rule and the needs of our school. Your daughter may have a new blended approach to education in September where pupils will be educated through a mixture of face-to-face teaching at school and remote learning at home.

We have already and will continue to put in a number of health and safety measures in place in school as the health and safety of all our staff and pupils has always been and will continue to be of paramount importance to us.

I will be writing to you again during the week beginning Monday 3rd August to provide you with greater details about your daughter returning to school in September. We will also be providing you with other important information.

Further information on eligibility for Home to School Transport and School Meals Assistance will be posted on the Education Authority website before the end of June so please check their website regularly.

Our School Uniform shop will be open on Monday 29th June from 12:00 until 1:30pm. This scheme allows pupils and parents to benefit from nearly new uniform items. Social distancing rules will apply on entry into the school. The shop will be positioned outside the Assembly Hall.





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In the meantime, can I wish you and your family a lovely summer break and we look forward to seeing you soon. Best wishes and stay safe.

Yours faithfully

Derise Crawley (2

Miss D Crawley PRINCIPAL













