

RECTOR'S UPDATE.: 12 JUNE 2020

- **Return to School**
- **Book Return**
- **Last week of Term**

Return to School

As you might have imagined, the school has been involved in intensive work planning for the return to school in August for some time now. While significant variables remain in question – the potential reduction in social distance measurement from two metres, or the need for international quarantine, for example – good progress has been made in the creation of risk assessments; the sourcing of PPE and testing equipment; the planning of socially-distanced teaching spaces and the adaptation of teaching practice that this might require. We aim to have further details with parents before the end of next week.

Book Return

Next week, from 15 – 19 June, there will be an opportunity for pupils in Form IV, V and VI, plus leavers in any year group, to return any textbooks and/or school resources that they will no longer require. A book drop 'trailer' will be placed in front of the Playfair building on the south side of the main steps (it will be clearly signposted). Whilst we want to encourage all pupils and their families to follow current guidelines (and not travel more than 5 miles), we would appreciate those that do live in the vicinity and can travel to the academy safely, to do so to return their books and resources. Please be reassured that a simple non-contact drop has been arranged and will be accessible between 9am and 5pm. Your efforts in this regard will be a great help to Heads of Department as they take a stock of the text-books and resources required for the next academic session.

Of course, any families unable to return books next week, will be able to do so in August.

The return of books and resources is particularly relevant for Form VI pupils.

Please note, it is important that pupils do not use this as an excuse to gather in groups, in the school grounds and pupils should not attempt to enter any school buildings. Should any pupils meet inadvertently whilst returning books, they will be expected to observe current social distancing guidelines at all times.

Last Week of Term

Formal class teaching finishes at the end of the day on Friday 19 June. There are two days of term calendared for the start of the following week, and a half day on Wednesday 24 would have been for Prizewinners and their parents, Form VI pupils and staff. What will now take place is a programme of whole school and year group-based activities on Monday 22 and Tuesday 23, culminating in the broadcast of an end of year whole school Assembly and

Prizegiving event. Details of this Assembly will be released nearer the time, as will the programme of activities – included in the programme will be opportunities to undertake some art work; get involved in a Lockdown Archive project; explore some current issues in a *Black Lives Matter*-based event; develop a UCAS application; push the exercise boundaries in a PE Challenge... Moving the final week school activities to centralised provision will also free up teachers to undertake further planning for the return to school next session.