

13th July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we reach the end of a very difficult year, I am writing to you in order to share information for the coming academic year.

1. School Calendar – attached

The calendar for the coming academic year is attached. Please note we are awaiting confirmation of the date for Local Government elections, for which Danesgate will be used as a polling station and therefore closed.

2. Covid update and return in September.

The scheduled return to school for students at Danesgate is **Weds 9th September 2020**. At Danesgate, in line with other Specialist Providers in the city, we are intending to implement a staggered start to the year. In line with government guidance published on Thursday 3rd July 2020, it is advised that schools create "bubbles", which may have slightly different timings to the day. Your child's Key Worker will be in touch with further details, but also, please keep an eye on the school website for updates over the summer break. As per the government guidance, expectations are that all pupils across all year groups will attend school, unless displaying COVID-19 symptoms, *thus we are expecting all pupils to return to Danesgate.*

The Secretary of State for Education has also confirmed that we are not asking schools to open over the summer holidays, and there is no expectation that schools should open for vulnerable children and children of critical workers over this period. Danesgate will not be open to pupils over the summer holiday.

3. Updated structures for September

As of September, we are creating some specific teaching groups across Danesgate, which may be a slightly different way of working for our young people. These small groupings will be centred around the social and academic needs of our young people. There will be consistent teaching staff and support staff within these groups, allowing for one-to-one support, where necessary, with specialist teachers also timetabled to deliver teaching within subject areas. This system will also initially help with creating our Covid "bubbles" for the return in September. We will be supporting pupils with this transition over the first term. Key Workers will remain the same for September.

It remains for me to thank you for your support over the year – particularly over the past few uncertain months. Joining Danesgate at this strange time has underlined what I already knew, that the pupils, carers/parents and staff are vital ingredients that make The Danesgate Community such a special place.

I wish you a safe and restful summer and look forward to welcoming your child back to Danesgate in September.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Richardson', followed by a small dash.

Mark Richardson
Head Teacher