

30 June 2020

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Dear Parents and Carers

With just under three weeks to go before our schools close for the summer holidays we wanted to remind you of the key government updates affecting schools.

Catch up plan

To address the disruption to education caused by the coronavirus pandemic and subsequent lockdown, the government has announced a £1 billion catch up plan for schools. It has been widely reported that this will provide schools with up to £90 for each pupil to fund catch up activities and additional money to deliver one to one tuition for Disadvantaged pupils. Guidance has yet to be published on how to deliver the plan or how much money each school will receive. We will update parents and carers on our plans when the guidance is released, and the funding has been allocated.

It has also been reported that schools could use the catch up funding to run Summer Schools. There is no detailed information or guidance on how this could be managed and delivered and there is little evidence of pupils catching up as a result of Summer Schools.

Our schools will be closing at the end of term on Friday 17 July, we will pass on any information about other activities, not provided by schools, available in the city during the holidays.

Pupil transitions at the end of the school year

All York pupils will progress to their next year group, as they would have done, when they start school in September. We know that parents are concerned about the impact on their children's education having missed so much time in the classroom. Our primary focus next year will be to ensure that all pupils are given every opportunity to catch up with their learning.

School places for the rest of term

We know that many parents are eager for their children to return to school, especially with the further easing of lockdown measures and social distancing from 4 July. The latest guidance is very clear that the government's plan is for all students to return to school in September and there is no expectation on primary schools to welcome back additional children where they do not have capacity to do so. Likewise, secondary schools are not expected to welcome back more children beyond the face to face support currently being offered to Year 10 and 12 pupils.

Our main priority has been and will continue to be the safety and welfare of our school communities, we will therefore be continuing with the current arrangements in our schools for the remainder of the term. The headteachers and staff in our schools are working incredibly hard to manage the current situation and we kindly ask that you continue to support them in their efforts.

Our Partner Schools

Free school meal vouchers

The government has announced that the extended free school meal voucher scheme available through the summer holidays will now also include pupils in Years 11 and 13. For all families in receipt of free school meals, please ensure that you redeem your vouchers as soon as possible and contact your child's school if you have any issues.

September 2020

The government's plan is for all pupils to return to school full time in September. Guidance is due to be published soon and we will update parents and carers when we have more information on this.

In the meantime, thank you for your continued understanding and support for our schools. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's school in the first instance. You can also contact Pathfinder directly by emailing info@pmat.academy.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Daly', written in a cursive style.

Andrew Daly
Executive Headteacher