

# In Partnership to Educate, Nurture & Empower



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Co-CEO: Ms Catherine Garrett

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Principal: Mr Jon Norden

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Dear Parent/Carer

Now that we have more details of the government's plans for September, I thought it would be a good opportunity to send out an update to you. We are now at the end of our third week of face to face sessions with Year 10 and Year 12 students, and these have been running very smoothly.

Teachers have really enjoyed seeing students and being able to teach them, albeit in rather different circumstances than normal. The students coming in have behaved really well and adjusted quickly to the social distancing procedures that we have put in place

We are also trying to ensure that all of our Years 7 to 9 students have another phone conversation with a member of staff, as a catch-up before the summer holidays. This is mainly an opportunity to see how our students are and determine if there is anything we can do to help them, but also gives the chance to see if there are any particular barriers with their remote learning tasks. Quite a few of these calls have already happened this week, but due to the numbers of students involved they will continue over the next two weeks.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you again, as parents and carers, for all the support that you have given your children with their remote learning, often in difficult circumstances. Most students continue to engage positively with their remote learning, working with their teachers to maintain an active learning programme. I'd like to draw your attention to an update in our safeguarding policy. If your child takes part in a Q and A session with their teacher, this will be recorded in order to safeguard staff and students. Full details of how we use and protect this information within our privacy notices and remote learning addendum at <https://www.abbeymat.co.uk/privacy-notice>.

We are now turning our attention to the new government guidance which requires all students to be in school when the new school year starts in September. I expect that, like me, this raises a number of questions in your mind as to what this will look like in practice, and I am not going to try to give details now, because the guidance only appeared yesterday, and we have a lot of planning to do before I get back to you.

Rest assured that, as we did for the Years 10 and 12 sessions, we will think carefully about how we achieve this return for all students, and aim to put in place procedures and processes which make it as safe as we possibly can for our students and staff. We know that many Abbey Grange students travel a fair way to get to school, often using either public transport or school buses, which adds an additional dimension to the issues that we face as a school to get back to something like normal.



It is also clear that we will need to work with a group of students who have had a wide range of differing experiences during lockdown, who have responded to the changes in different ways, and who have got through contrasting amounts of work. Teachers and our pastoral staff will be working hard to support students in September with the adjustment to a return to school as well as dealing with the gaps in learning that there will inevitably be after such a long period of remote learning.

For our Year 10 and 12 students, who will be preparing for exams in summer 2021, we hope to have more information by September as to how those exams look, and whether they will have any adaptations. There is a consultation process on this which has just commenced. Once this is confirmed we will adapt our planning and curriculum for the year accordingly.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Norden', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jon Norden  
Principal