



ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL

Miss Helen Barton MA
Headmistress

1st June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

JOINT STATEMENT FROM ST ALBANS AND HARPENDEN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

A key feature of education in St Albans and Harpenden in recent years has been the close collaboration between all the secondary schools. Over the period since March 23rd when the majority of students began remote learning from home, all secondary head teachers have been in regular communication about how we can support our students and what that might look like for each of our schools. We have also appreciated being able to consult with our primary colleagues over the position in which they also find themselves. This mutual support has really helped us navigate what has been a very challenging situation for all schools.

For students in year 10 and 12, we are currently reviewing the information we have received from the government about the suggested partial reopening from June 1st (at the earliest). The government has asked us to provide some form of face-to-face support for students in these year groups to supplement their remote learning – but this will not be a return to a full timetable. We are awaiting more advice and guidance from the Department for Education, the local authority and the teacher unions to help us make our plans to deliver this support, and our priority at all times must be the safety of our students and staff, as well as limiting the risk of infection for the families that they will return to, and our wider community. Each of our schools has particular challenges to overcome before we can begin to welcome back students physically and the final arrangements that we make will look different in our different contexts. For each of us, there will be a need to consider how we can make our sites as COVID secure as possible and that will come down to the designs of our buildings and the size of some classrooms. Each school will also have different numbers of staff available to come into school due to considerations such as shielding for them or their families, and this will also impact on what we can offer in school. As a result, we hope that parents will understand that making comparisons between schools at the current time is not helpful or appropriate – but we can assure you we are all trying to do the best job possible for our learners. You will be hearing from your child's school as soon as they have concrete information for you about what they are able to offer year 10 and 12, and what date they are able to offer that from.

In the meantime, we would like to publicly thank our staff, who have managed to move from face-to-face learning to providing education remotely in such a short space of time. Given that students and staff all have different levels of access to, and skill with, technology, the work that has been done is nothing short of remarkable and we are very grateful for all their hard work.



We are also grateful to all those parents who have taken the time to contact our schools to express their support – your good wishes have made a real difference to us all.

Yours sincerely



Mr Atkinson
Beaumont School



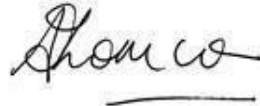
Mrs Reeves Costi
Heathlands
School



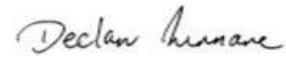
Mrs Shields
Heathlands School



Mrs Lynch
Loreto College



Ms Thomson
Marlborough Academy



Mr Linnane
Nicholas Breakspear School



Mr Henshall
Roundwood Park School



Mr Gauthier
Samuel Ryder Academy



Mr Gray
Sandringham School



Mrs Robins
Sir John Lawes School



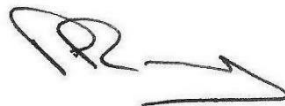
Mrs Chapman
St Albans Girls' School



Miss Barton
St George's School



Mr Wellbeloved
Townsend School



Mr Ramsey
Verulam School



Mr Smith
Katherine Warington School