



South Derbyshire Support Centre

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Date: 15th July 2020
Contact D O'Donovan

Dear Parent/Carer,

Firstly, I would like to thank you, on behalf of myself all the staff at the centre for your excellent support this academic with all that we have been through as a school community, in terms of the Covid-19 Pandemic. I have never experienced anything like this during my teaching career and it is a year that I will never forget.

I am writing to give you a few updates and what the plans are for next academic year. We finish for the summer term on Friday 17th July 2020 at 14:00 when pupils will break up for the Summer Holidays. We are sending work out to families in case you want to carry on with some work to prepare for returning to school in September.

Pupils will return to school on Thursday 3rd September 2020 at the normal time, 08:40 for Key Stage 3 and 4 pupils, and 09:00 for Key stage 2 pupils. Pupils will be required to wear school uniform when they return so please ensure that you purchase the uniform you need over the summer holidays. You can see the uniform expectations by visiting the support centre website at <https://www.sdsc.derbyshire.sch.uk/uniform>

The current Government guidance is that schools will return as normal in September 2020, which will mean all pupils returning and accessing school as they would normally.

We will still have hand sanitizer for when pupils arrive at the centre and they will be expected to wash hands more often than they did previously, which is the Government guidance. Pupils will not be expected to wear clean uniform every day, as those who have returned to school during lockdown have had to. We will do our best to ensure we maintain social distancing but for those of you that have been to the centre, this will be difficult once all pupils have returned to school in September.

In terms of pupils learning and curriculum needs for the next academic year, we are expected to operate a recover curriculum as pupils will have missed a substantial amount of time away from school. I know lots of you have completed work whilst being at home, and I would again

like to thank you for that work that has been completed. I know it has not been easy for some of you but thank you again.

From September we will be having a whole school assembly every Monday morning in the Gallery Room and an Alternative Reading Session on a Friday morning. We will send out more information regarding the Alternative Reading sessions in September once we are back.

We will also be undertaking some baseline assessments with all pupils over the first couple of weeks to see where they are, what gaps we need to fill, and to assess the next steps. We will be undertaking parents' evenings again next academic year where we will be able to share these baseline assessments and learning plans with you.

We will be increasing class sizes next academic year and changing our educational provision across some of the key stages. We will be increasing key stage 2 from 8 to 10 pupils, key stage 3 will increase from 6 to 8 pupils and key stage 4 will be combined into one class of 8 pupils, mixing pupils in year 10 and 11. In our key stage 4 class, pupils will be in the centre for five days a week. We will no longer be using Alternative Provisions as this is an exceptionally high cost as well as feel that we will be able to support pupil needs in the school. We will be working towards Functional Skills in English and Mathematics, Entry Level Certificate in Science, a Level 1 qualification in Personal and Social Development and possibly a PE qualification, but that will depend on availability of Greenbank Leisure centre. We will not be doing any cooking lessons for the foreseeable future as we're unsure about the safety of cooking lessons in terms of Covid-19 and I'm aware that other schools will not be doing cooking either. Once we have further information, we will let you know.

We have spoken to the catering team at Newhall Junior School, who supply our school dinners. The current plan is that when pupils receive their lunch, they will receive it in a Grab Bag, rather than us dishing up their meals. This is information that has come from the caterers and we will see how it goes in September 2020.

As previously mentioned, we close on Friday 17th July and staff will not return until Wednesday 2nd September, for an INSET Day. The centre mobile will remain switched off as staff will be on holiday. If you need anything, you can email the enquiries@sdsc.derbyshire.sch.uk which will be monitored frequently, but not necessarily daily.

If you do need support over the Summer Holidays, the Esteem Family and Student Support Team will be available through their website, which you can view at <https://www.fassteesteem.co.uk/> and they have their Facebook Group, which is FASST (Part of Esteem) Family and Student Support Group.

For those pupils who are moving on to new schools and our year 11's who are leaving us, we would like to wish you all the best for the future. It has been a real pleasure working with you during your time at SDSC. Please do pop back in to say hello if you are passing, it would be great to hear how you are doing at your new school or college placement.

Finally, I'd like to wish you all a lovely Summer Holiday after this very challenging year we have been through. Your support has been very grateful, and I look forward to welcoming

pupils and families back in September and another excellent year at South Derbyshire Support Centre

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D O'Donovan".

Mr D O'Donovan
Headteacher