



Dear Student,

I hope you are well and not missing your school, friends, and teachers too much. I have missed having you around and seeing you each day to have a chat or even just to say hello! and my colleagues have also missed you and teaching you face to face. It is frustrating that the closure of our school has disrupted your education in the way that it has, and I appreciate that the continuity of your learning in Year 8 has been somewhat disrupted. I know being away from school and working from home will not have been easy for you, so I intend to make your transition into Year 9 to continue your education as smooth as possible considering the challenging times the Breda community will face with implementing measures to protect you and your families from COVID 19.

The Education Minister, Peter Weir, confirmed on the 2nd June 2020 that the Department of Education for Northern Ireland has started its **Restart Programme** which will put in place the detailed arrangements which will enable a safe reopening of schools. The Education Minister said;

"Subject to medical guidance and safety it would be my aim to see a phased reopening of schools, beginning with a limited provision for key cohort years in late August, followed by phased provision for all pupils at the beginning of September. This will not be a return to school as it was prior to COVID 19, but rather a new normal reflective of social distancing and a medically safe regime. For all pupils it will involve a schedule with a mixture of school attendance and remote learning at home."

Breda Academy will adhere with the set guidelines and I will inform you and your parents/carers how these will be implemented in our school setting. I will send you a further update by letter in due course about what we are doing and you will also receive a Welcome Back Pack outlining your attendance at school schedule, 'blended' learning guidance (in school and at home) and possible changes to our normal school routine including school bus timetables.

Please continue with your set work for each subject on Google Classrooms until at least the end of June as this will prevent you from falling behind and having to catch-up on missed learning. I wish you an enjoyable and safe summer break and I very much look forward to seeing you again most likely in late August or early September and please do not worry about your return to school as I know my staff team will work tirelessly to support you and take care of you, so you make lots of progress in your next year of learning.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Perry - Acting Principal