



Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to write to thank you for your continued support and patience as we have been restoring the IT network and overcoming the challenges this has posed.

Our IT support team have been working closely with external specialist cyber security experts to restore our systems, and although they have managed to achieve a huge amount in a short period of time, I cannot emphasise how much this has impacted on our day-to-day working. The restoration process is frustrating and slow, however restoring our servers and network must be done in a methodical and systematic way, and we must be guided by the experts. It will take time for us to be back to where we were in the Spring Term.

There has been a lot going on in the background with server and system restoration, but I would like to highlight some of the progress that has been made so far for the systems that impact on your child.

- The Safeguarding Team received cleansed devices on the first day of term so that pupil and student safety was not compromised.
- Wi-fi access for school devices has been restored, although it is currently a little slow and patchy.
- Our Microsoft environment (Office365) has been scanned and checked to ensure integrity, and all users forced to reset their password. Access to emails has been restored so that there is communication between colleagues, parents and pupils.
- Our SIMS management system has been restored and is accessible on a few machines across the school.
- Staff laptops have been cleansed so they can adapt and plan lessons/materials for pupils and students. A range of different cables have been purchased for staff, so they can connect a range of devices to the interactive boards in classrooms to deliver lessons.
- Some printers have been reconfigured to allow staff to access printing and copying so they can prepare materials for pupils and students.
- The cashless catering system was restored in time for the return of pupils/students.
- Exams manager software has been restored so that exam entries can be finalised and preparations for exams completed ready for upcoming GCSE, BTEC and A Level exams.
- Two sets of laptops have been cleansed and assigned to the Business Studies and Geography departments, to allow students to complete their Business Studies and Travel and Tourism BTEC coursework and complete exam preparation exercises.
- 3 ICT suites have been cleansed and will be rejoined to the network this weekend so that pupils and students can continue to work on their computing work.
- The music server and studio computers have been cleansed and will be configured today so that BTEC Music Technology students can finish their coursework for their qualification.

Next week, we will be working on getting SIMS on all staff devices and start work on pupils' school-issued laptops, computers in the Sixth Form workroom and laptops in the Library, so that we can get back to our 'normal way of working'.

We are pleased to report that we had a regular back up process in place and do not anticipate the loss of data because of what has happened.

Aside from all of this, lessons, interventions, clubs and most trips and activities have continued.

Where we have had to cancel activities, we are sorry. Cancellation has been due to concerns around safety and the availability of staff. Wherever possible, we will reschedule activities for a later date.

As we would expect, your children are behaving, working, and enjoying school. Many have said that they haven't noticed the absence of technology – which has given us a lot of food for thought. Effective teaching, whilst aided by all the wonderful technology that is available, should never be substituted by it.

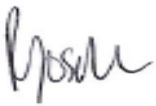
Teachers and support staff are working hard too, making adjustments and ensuring that pupils and students in Years 11 and 13 are as well prepared as they usually are at this stage in their courses. Local primary and secondary schools have been exceptional in their offers of support, and I would like to thank Angela Harris, Headteacher of St Michael's Primary School and Helen Shorrocks, Headteacher of Burntwood School for the practical support that enabled us to prepare lessons at the start of this term.

Please note that we do not have a working telephone system at the moment. Whilst it will ring and you may be able to leave a message, we are still unable to access these messages. Therefore, please continue to email the school with any information you need to pass on. For absence information, please email [reception@saintcecilias.london](mailto:reception@saintcecilias.london), for other information/enquiries please contact [info@saintcecilias.london](mailto:info@saintcecilias.london).

I will be in touch with more updates as the recovery progresses, and when we finalise the process of collating and categorising the data that has been stolen.

Please let me say a genuine sorry for the disruption this has caused to everyone. Saint Cecilia's is an incredibly special school community, and staff have been touched by the messages of support, the gifts and your prayers.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Renata Joseph  
Headteacher