



Saint Paul's Catholic High School

5th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to you at the beginning of a new term with an update on the new guidance received in the last 24 hours regarding the closure of schools during this most recent national lockdown.

I am aware that this is a difficult time for us all and I thank you for your patience and understanding particularly in receiving several communications from me in the last few weeks.

In this letter I will provide information regarding our current circumstances.

Remote Learning

As of today ALL students across all year groups will be taught remotely via the schools remote learning portal. Teaching staff will provide students with their full entitlements to the curriculum on a daily basis and students will be expected to follow their timetables. If your children are unable to access the remote learning portal or do not have access to an electronic device such as lap top to support them with their learning please contact the school office on the usual contact number to let us know. This will provide us with an opportunity to source a device to help them with their continued learning.

Year 11

It has been announced this morning that all GCSE and A Level examination have been cancelled this summer. I am very conscious of the effect that this may have on your child and I await further guidance from the Department of Education as to how students will be assessed at the end of the academic year. I will contact you as soon as I receive information regarding this matter. In the meantime I urge all Year 11 students to continue completing all remote learning tasks provided by their teachers to the best of their ability.

This is important since the evidence of remote learning engagement alongside in school assessments will provide us with the evidence we need to ensure that your child is awarded their appropriate grade. In terms of further in school assessments the mock examinations will be pushed back further after half term in order that your child has adequate time to prepare. I will provide you with dates in due course. Please note that all teaching staff have been instructed not to share details of any GCSE grade with students.

Furthermore we have been instructed that vocational examinations (Business Studies, ICT, Child Care, Animal Care) will continue at this stage. Therefore, all Year 11 and Year 10 students will receive information regarding the completion of these exams directly including any revision sessions to support them. Please note: the examinations and revision sessions will be undertaken in line with all health and safety measures.

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Critical Workers & Free School Meals

As I have previously written to you all requesting that parents/carers identify themselves as critical workers if you require your child to attend school please inform us as soon as possible in order for us to make the necessary provisions.

Similarly, and in addition to my previous communication, if your child is entitled to a free school meal please notify us as soon as possible if you wish to collect a meal from school. These will be available for collection between 12pm and 1:30pm, daily.

If you think you should be entitled to free school meals but have not yet applied, please do so on ParentApps or by visiting our school website. As we receive any updates regarding free school meals, we will notify all parents and carers via ParentApps.

Communications

If you have not already done so, please ensure that you sign up for ParentApps, so that you receive all communications as soon as they have been issued.

Parents Evenings & Year 9 Options Evening

Due to the current circumstances, there will be a delay to the scheduled parents' evenings and year 9 options evening. I am currently looking at providing remote access to these events and I will write to you later in the term with new dates and how to register.

Finally, as I have stated in my recent communications your children have shown incredible resilience during the Autumn term, we were fortunate to have most of our children attending school during this time and your understanding and response to those children who unfortunately had to isolate was much appreciated. It is my intention that during this new lock down period we maintain contact with you via online year group assemblies, spiritual reflections and the opportunity for students to share their thoughts via pupil voice. As we begin this new term we find ourselves in very different circumstances.

I hope that you and your families all remain safe during this period of time and I look forward to seeing your children on their return to Saint Paul's.

Yours faithfully

Mr A Hren
HEADTEACHER

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