


All Hallows Catholic High School



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Headteacher: Mr C Horrocks B.A.

27th March 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

I am writing to you at the end of the most bizarre week of my time in education. The school has been closed since Monday 23rd to all but the children of parents who are key workers. On Monday we welcomed ten pupils and this number has steadily declined to two today. I must say to the parents of those children who have attended, they have been a credit to their families, having acted in a mature and sensible manner all week.

It has been so reassuring to see how many pupils have been accessing work which has been set by their teachers. Our systems, which regularly log online activity, have evidenced the commitment pupils have shown to their studies. I am conscious of the anxiety which has also been present, both in pupils who are worrying about falling behind in their learning and for many parents who, for the first time, are experiencing teaching their children academic subjects. As much as we wish our pupils to continue with their studies, we must all remain mindful of the fact that the time spent studying must not become too intense. In a lesson in school, it is quite common that children will listen to their teacher or classmates speak for periods of time. It is rare that pupils will be studying / writing for the entirety of a fifty minute period. I would urge you to consider, therefore, that pupils should take regular breaks and that there is much benefit in them engaging in other activities which we could broadly call life skills.

Furthermore, it is important to consider the welfare of my colleagues who are being called upon to work from home, but whom often are having to look after their own children during the school day. For their health and well-being I believe that you will agree with me that, out of school hours, they cannot be expected to be on constant 'call'.

Next week we will begin to turn our attention to making arrangements to enable the school to stay open during the Easter break for children of key workers who may be required to continue to attend their work place to fight the spread of the virus. We would be most grateful if parents who are considered key workers could contact the school via email or telephone on Monday or Tuesday of next week to confirm their requirements for the Easter period, this would include detailed information about shift patterns. As I have done on many previous occasions, I would still urge parents to consider the very clear message on staying safe at home, if that is at all possible without putting the health of others at risk.

I wish you all a very safe and healthy weekend. For many people there still remains an 'unreal' sense of the ongoing crisis. However, for many others, including some within our own community the reality of the epidemic is growing ever closer to home as known cases are now being reported. We pray for all of our loved ones in these most worrying of times.

Yours sincerely,

Mr C Horrocks
Headteacher



“Growing together in the spirit of Christ’s love”

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