

All Hallows Catholic High School



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Headteacher: Mr C Horrocks B.A.

Dear Parent / Carer,

During the past few weeks we have all settled into our new way of life and are beginning to come to terms with the adaptations we have had to make to both our working and social lives. As I had expected, the community of All Hallows has risen to the challenge in a positive and purposeful fashion, from our outstanding teachers who have managed to keep learners on track, to our support staff who have allowed the school to stay open for the children of key worker, our governors who have offered support in the face of the challenges presented and parents who have heeded the advice to keep pupils at home wherever possible. I am sure that you have enjoyed your new found prowess as teachers!

Apart from the Easter weekend, the school will remain open to the children of key workers, although the strong advice remains that, for the most serious of health reasons, children should stay at home if it is safe for them to do so. The school will be open for a shortened school day, closing each day at 2 pm. During the Easter period pupils should be allowed to enjoy some downtime. Pupils attending school will not be expected to follow the curriculum and will be involved in other non-academic activities. My colleagues will not be setting or marking work for this period and I would be grateful if pupils refrain from contacting teachers during the Easter break as they also need to have time to recuperate from the strain of this testing term. Importantly, however, pupils and parents must not hesitate to contact previously identified key staff members if they have concerns of a safeguarding nature.

We are able to track through the school's systems, the number of pupils who have been regularly accessing school work. It is evident that so many of our pupils have continued to work hard during the past few weeks. However, I would advise parents to have detailed conversations with their children about the work which has been completed as it is apparent that some pupils have not been engaging fully with the work set. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have concerns about your child's effort and work rate.

Following the Easter break, we will write to parents with details about reports on pupil progress which we will be able to provide in the summer term. Clearly, we will have to make adaptations to the systems and processes we had planned to employ previous to the current crisis. I have written a separate letter to Year 11 pupils and their parents in which I have described the process for awarding GCSE grades this year.

Recently, the Local Authority has compiled some useful guidance for pupils who are learning at home and has produced some advice for pupils whose mental health and well-being may become affected by the crisis. I have attached this information to this letter and would recommend that parents and pupils read the content carefully.



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In conclusion, I wish you all a restful, safe and healthy Easter period. We continue to be at the end of a telephone or email should you need any assistance. Please do not hesitate to contact us, we need the community to continue to both offer and seek support. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues who continue to work with the SVP to deliver food to local residents in need. Should you wish to help by donating provisions, the 'house' in the school grounds is open between 9 am and 10 am each weekday morning. Please adhere to social distancing protocols if you enter the school site to deliver food. Easter eggs are currently gratefully accepted! Clearly, our planned Holy Week activities have not taken place this week and it will be impossible for us to celebrate the Easter period in our local churches. There is a link below, however, which will allow you to access services at St Teresa's during the Easter period. In addition, may I remind you that you were sent a link recently to the Holy Week booklet compiled by our Chaplain, Kate.

<https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-teresas-penwortham>

Yours sincerely,



Mr C Horrocks
Headteacher