


# All Hallows Catholic High School



 @allhallowsschs • T: 01772 746121 • F: 01772 908502 • E: enquiries@allhallows.lancs.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr C Horrocks B.A.

28th April 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

Welcome back after the Easter break. I am sure that for many of you this was the strangest Easter you have spent, as it was for staff at All Hallows as they continued to attend school to enable us to stay open to support key worker families. I hope that my latest communication finds you all well and that you have been able to keep your families safe from harm. The lockdown is proving difficult for many but it is clear that we have to remain strong for a while longer if we are to tackle the virus.

I am in regular contact with department leads and they in turn are in contact with members of their departments to enable the school to maintain a cohesive plan for the provision of learning for our pupils. My colleagues have been amazing through these difficult times. Teachers continue to set work for pupils which offers them the best chance to continue to make progress in their learning and all members of our non-teaching staff continue to support the team effort which is being undertaken. The difficulties that many of you are also facing, juggling work with teaching your children must also be recognised fully. In that regard, please may I ask that you seek help and guidance if you think we can help, and try to maintain the balance at home for our young people between school work and leisure time. I am sure that alongside the many stresses that lockdown can bring, many of you are also experiencing the benefits of having so much close family time together and are discovering pursuits which have their own educational merit.

I would like to remind you that in previous letters during the crisis I have sent information which we received from the Local Authority about study at home. This was relevant for all year groups, including for our Year 11 pupils for whom the summer examinations will no longer take place. The school is currently investing a lot of energy into ensuring that the grades we will eventually submit to the examination boards reflect accurately the ability and endeavour of our Year 11 pupils over the last two years of study. In addition to information about study at home we have also provided guidance on pastoral concerns such as online safety and mental health and well-being. Once again, I ask that you do not hesitate to contact us if you wish to speak with key staff in both the pastoral and academic spheres in school.

With regard to support for mental health and well-being we have been pleased to receive resources from Sam Tyrer, a former pupil and mental health worker who regularly provides input to our Personal Development Curriculum in school. If you would like to visit the school website, you will be able to access a link to resources which Sam has uploaded. The current resources are the third in the series and on this occasion deal with social media and self-image. A further link is now on the website to enable parents to access the provision offered by CAMHS which is offering advice and guidance to young people during the lockdown. All of my previous letters to parents during the crisis and the links to school work and supporting materials can also be found on the website.



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In conclusion, I would like to inform you that we continue to receive a daily update from the Department for Education but as yet there is no indication of the point at which schools will re-open, or indeed, once schools re-open what arrangements may have to be put in place. I can assure you that as soon as we are able to pass on information we will and you can be confident that we will plan as meticulously as we did in preparation for closure, so that the health and safety of our pupils remains paramount. For the time being we have organised a rota of attendance at school for staff up to the spring bank holiday and will review this in line with guidance we receive from both the LA and central government. We remain open each to the children of key workers if no other safe childcare arrangements can be made. I would, however, like to point out that we will be closed on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May for the bank holiday which was changed from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May for this year.

I wish you all well. Keep safe.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Horrocks'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

Mr C Horrocks  
Headteacher