

# All Hallows Catholic High School



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Headteacher: Mr C Horrocks B.A.



Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June

Dear Parent / Carer,

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June, I wrote to parents and carers of pupils in Year 10 to share the welcome news that from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June the school will be able to open to limited numbers of Year 10 pupils for face-to-face sessions in school. Unfortunately, for pupils in other year groups this will not be permitted until at least September.

The parents of pupils in Year 10 have been provided with detailed information about risk assessments which have been undertaken and the measures implemented to ensure the safe return of pupils from next Monday. One element of the pack of information is a video filmed on the school site, which enables parents and pupils to see clearly the health and safety precautions which have been enacted. For your own interest, you may wish to view the changes to the school site and the systems and processes which have been adopted. Please note that this information is specific to the period from June 22<sup>nd</sup> to the end of the summer term on July 17<sup>th</sup>. When we receive guidance from Central Government and the LA about the expectations for schools to admit greater numbers of pupils in September, the current plan will be updated to reflect the requirements of us at that time.

[You can view the video here.](#)

In preparing to admit some Year 10 pupils we have also undertaken a process of review of our provision for remote learning, in all of its forms, which we have delivered to pupils since the lockdown was implemented in March. On the whole we have been pleased with the response of the vast majority of pupils to this new way of working. Levels of engagement have been high and the maintenance of good channels of communication has enabled teachers to adapt both the content of lessons and the volume of work set. This has enabled us to challenge pupils appropriately or to alleviate anxiety when the pressure of work has negatively affected pupils.

Following our analysis of the period of remote learning, and reflecting upon the fact that in this uncertain period of time, it is highly likely that the autumn term may also involve learning remotely for some pupils, we have revised our remote learning offer. A number of guidance documents were provided at the start of the period of remote learning, which informed pupils of where to find the work set and of the expectations of each curriculum area with regards to the submission of completed work and the feedback they could expect. We have updated our guidance and have produced a Remote Learning Policy which is attached to this email.

Upon reading the policy, you will notice that much of our current practice remains. However, I would like to highlight the information contained in two distinct areas. Within section three (resources), it is important to recognise that we are still committed to promoting learning through a diverse range of teaching methods. There has been a degree of support for lessons to be taught through online platforms such as Teams or Zoom, and some members of staff have begun to employ this teaching strategy. However, research from the Education Endowment Fund has shown that there is no clear evidence that this method of teaching is significantly more impactful than another. In fact, a rich and diverse 'diet' of teaching and learning is more likely to secure pupil progress. We intend to be guided by our curriculum area leaders who are experts in their own field and in whom I have the greatest trust to deliver lessons through the most appropriate means.

The fact that some teachers are eager to explore teaching through online platforms could give rise to concerns over potential safeguarding issues. In section 3 (sub section: online safety), clear protocols are described, which if followed, will keep all parties safe when lessons are delivered in this manner.

All Hallows is a school which prides itself on the delivery of best practice across the range of subjects. As such, we have undertaken, as part of our review of current practice, the process of sharing some of the methods of teaching which have proven to be most successful in this period of remote learning. Also, we have undertaken researched a range of additional teaching and learning methods and resources to enhance our provision, particularly at Key Stage 3. Furthermore, we have made adaptations to our whole school Feedback Policy to reflect the need to communicate even more closely with Key Stage 3 pupils to both enable us to recognise the work which has already been completed and to re-engage our younger pupils in a remote learning process which is likely to extend beyond the summer break.

At this point of the summer term, we feel it is now advisable that Year 9 pupils concentrate their efforts only on the core subjects and those they have chosen, through the options process, to continue to study at GCSE level in Year 10. Therefore, for option subjects, teachers will only set work to completed by those pupils in their Year 9 classes who have selected their subject for continued study in Year 10.

I hope that our families continue to rise to the challenge presented by the continuing health crisis. We are conscious however, that for some of our pupils the extended period away from school has engendered increasing levels of stress and anxiety. I continue to urge you to contact our pastoral staff, who are ever willing to help, should you require advice or assistance with any aspect of your concerns about your child.

Yours sincerely,



Mr C Horrocks  
Headteacher