


# All Hallows Catholic High School



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Headteacher: Mr C Horrocks B.A.

June 1<sup>st</sup> 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

I am writing further to my letter which you received on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June in which I wrote on a number of topics of concern to Year 11 pupils.

It is clear that the majority of information I provided in the letter was well received, but I have received a number of emails from parents asking the school to reconsider the decision not to host a results day on Thursday August 20<sup>th</sup>. Rather than responding to parents on an individual basis I believe that it may prove useful if I explain more fully to all parents and pupils, through this additional letter, the reasons for the decision which has been taken.

In recent weeks, the school has had to carry out detailed risk assessments and has to modify the school site significantly to enable only one quarter of the Year 10 cohort to attend. The basic premise remains that, whenever possible, gathering together should be avoided if at all possible. This stills hold true in light of the Government's decision to alter the social distance measurement from 2 metres to 1 metre.

During the lockdown period, the school has been advised and guided by the Local Authority and the Archdiocese of Liverpool, and I have been in regular contact with other local headteachers in the Chorley and South Ribble district. It is clear that a results day held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August would represent an unnecessary gathering on the school site, bringing with it an associated risk, which otherwise could be avoided by sending the results electronically. The vast majority of local schools share this view and have also taken the decision not to host a results day on their school site.

If our school did have a results day it would hardly resemble a traditional results day on which all of our pupils gather together to celebrate with each other as they open envelopes containing the grades which have been awarded. The day would have to be carefully planned, possibly allocating a slot to each pupil in which he/she would arrive at school. A 'one in one out' policy would have to be strictly adhered to, and I would not for the safety of staff have many colleagues in school to administer the system. I believe that this would make the whole process somewhat joyless.

Additionally, a socially distanced results day would potentially last a number of hours, thus making it difficult for the pupils with later time slots to contact the college to which they intend to progress in good time to secure their place on that day. A guarantee of receiving results electronically between 9 am and 10 am on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> would be more beneficial in this scenario.

As is customary at our school, we would ensure on the day that key staff are on hand to offer advice and guidance to pupils who feel they may need it. Again, this will be carried out remotely through a telephone conversation or by the Microsoft Teams facility. As I explained in my earlier letter, Mrs Wallbanks in her role as Examinations Officer, will soon write to parents to give full details of arrangements for Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August.

Once again, I would like to stress to you that all of the decisions we have had to take which appear to have negatively affected our Year 11 pupils have been taken out of the necessity to try to combat the impact of the virus with which we have all had to live these past months.

Our ongoing commitment to our Year 11 pupils remains to try to find opportunities in the autumn term to celebrate the amazing achievements of our wonderful Year 11 cohort.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Horrocks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'C'.

Mr C Horrocks  
Headteacher