

All Hallows Catholic High School



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Headteacher: Mr C Horrocks B.A.

Newsletter 12
4th December 2020

Upcoming Events

Parents of pupils in Year 11, please note the information you received by ParentMail last week about the forthcoming Year 11 Parents' Evening which will take place on Wednesday December 9th. This is our first virtual Parents' Evening using the software, SchoolCloud. Please login following the instructions you have been given to book appointments with your child's teachers. The evening represents an opportunity to talk about your child's current levels of academic progress. The time allocation to each meeting is confined to four minutes, therefore, if you wish to discuss concerns of a pastoral nature I would encourage you to contact Mr Hodgson, Mrs Washington or me separately, by email or telephone.

Year 11 pupils will shortly receive more information about another event which will utilise the SchoolCloud platform. Upon return to school after the Christmas break, the software will be used to deliver the Mock Interviews with people from industry which normally take place at that time of year. In the last week of term, we will be uploading to our website, our virtual Certificate Evening for last year's Year 11 cohort. Because of the disruption caused by the pandemic, last year's Year 11 pupils were unable to experience so many of the usual events which are put on especially for them. Our virtual Certificate Evening will allow us to celebrate the magnificent achievements of a wonderful year group, recognising their excellent GCSE results and their individual successes throughout their time with us. A ParentMail with further details will be sent to parents early next week.

Christmas 'Dinner'

Please see the attached advertisement for this year's Christmas dinner. Clearly, due to the health and safety measures currently in school, we are unable to serve our customary high quality Christmas dinner. In its place we intend to serve a festive grab bag. Pupils should place their orders with their form teacher by Wednesday 9th December to enable us to place our order for the turkey that will be required.

Year 11 Exams 2021

I am sure that many parents of current Year 11 pupils have read or heard about the latest news on the GCSE exams next summer. In our view, the picture still remains rather confusing and does not appear to offer the 'levelling up' of inequality which exists between pupils in certain parts of the country and those in the North West of England. Further information is expected at the end of January, but the following is a summary of the current intentions of the Government:

- There is a commitment to Year 11 pupils taking exams
- The exams will be 'more generously marked'
- Teachers will be told, at the end of January, which aspects of their courses will be examined
- Pupils who are unable to attend to sit exams due to C-19 infection or self-isolation will be given 'special consideration', much the same as exists now for pupils who are unable to sit exams due to illness

I, like all of you, have become increasingly concerned about the number of teaching days our Year 11s have already lost to the virus last year and during this term. I have expressed my concerns by email to our local MP and I am pleased that she has agreed to a Zoom meeting with me on Friday 11th December to enable me to discuss my concerns.

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

AN OUTSTANDING SCHOOL



If you have any points that you would like me to raise during that meeting, please contact me before next Friday.



Year 7 Flu Catch Ups

The Immunisation Team will be coming into school on Wednesday 9th December to deliver Year 7 'catch up' flu immunisations to pupils who missed these earlier in the term (where consent has been given).

The Last Week of Term

A number of parents have expressed their concern that they fear their child may be sent home during the last week of term to self-isolate if identified as a close contact of an infected pupil, thus putting pressure on families during the Christmas period. Some have asked for permission to keep their child off school to access remote learning instead. The Government has made it very clear that schools are not able to sanction this action and must not authorise absence in the run up to Christmas. The school must act in accordance with the strict guidance it has been given.

In the last week of term, we are planning some great festive events for the pupils after such a long and challenging period. Enrichment day on Thursday 17th December will be a day with a real difference and I do not intend to spoil that surprise. On Friday 18th, the pupils will be treated to an inspiring end of term assembly, beautifully put together by our Chaplaincy Team.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Horrocks". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Mr C Horrocks
Headteacher

