

All Hallows Catholic College

A Voluntary Academy | National Teaching School

Aspire not to have more but to be more

Brooklands Avenue, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 8LB | Telephone: 01625 426138 | Fax: 01625 468126 | admin@allhallows.org.uk | www.allhallows.org.uk

Principal - Mr T Beesley

7th January 2021

Dear Parent or Carer,

RE: COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) – UPDATED INFORMATION AND ADVICE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

I hope you are well. I am sorry to be writing to you so soon after my last letter, but there are some important updates that I would like to share with you, and I know, from some lovely emails that I have recently received, that parents and carers do appreciate open, transparent, and regular communication.

Exams

The Education Secretary announced yesterday that GCSE & A level grades will once again be awarded by teachers this year. There has been no further information as to how these Centre Assessed Grades will be arrived at, but there will not be any algorithm applied this time around. As mentioned in my last letter, it is really important that Year 11 & 13 students continue to engage with their remote learning, so that they are ready and prepared to take any further assessments when it is safe to do so, should that be what's required. We will of course share any other information with you as soon as we get it. I know it is a difficult time for those young people who were preparing to sit exams, but my message to them is to try and stay positive, and remember that we are still here for them, if they want to talk to us or ask us any questions. We may not have all the answers, but we may be able to ease their anxieties and put their minds at rest.

Remote Learning

As from this morning, all students must register with their form tutor on Microsoft Teams at 8.55 each morning. There were some issues with Microsoft Teams yesterday, both nationally and locally, but hopefully most of the glitches have now been fixed. If your child is having problems accessing live lessons, please contact their Form Tutor in the first instance, or any general questions about online learning can be emailed to Mr Benbow, our remote learning coordinator, at p.benbow@allhallows.org.uk.

We have had to issue a small number of sanctions for inappropriate behaviour in live lessons. A basic expectation in any lesson is that staff must be allowed to teach, and students must be allowed to learn. This is the same for live lessons. Any behaviour that goes against this principle will automatically result in a student being removed from a lesson, and may result in a temporary or permanent ban from any 'live' lessons, with alternative work being set on Show My Homework or a student having to come into College, to work under staff supervision. However, it must be said that the overwhelming majority of students have engaged appropriately and the feedback from staff regarding students' behaviour has been excellent.



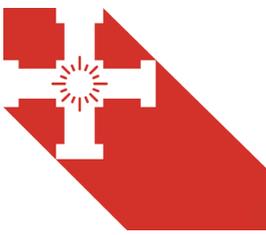
Honourable Purpose

Respect

Compassion

Co-operation

Stewardship



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Work will continue to be set for ADT, PE, and Performing Arts at Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9), but because of the difficulties involved in delivering such practical subjects remotely, these particular lessons will not necessarily be 'live'.

Attendance to all online lessons, and completion of work, is compulsory, and registers will be taken. For any student who is still unsure about how to access their College email address or Microsoft Teams, there is a Loom presentation on the College website, and also accessed [here](#).

COVID-19 Testing

We hope to begin testing our staff and the students on site next week. There is a folder on the College [website](#) containing a lot of information, including:

- A [leaflet](#) that explains testing to students, parents and staff
- The [All Hallows Privacy Statement](#)
- A [Mass Testing Data Protection FAQ](#)

There is also a link to an [electronic consent form](#) which must be completed by 9am on Monday 11th January for all those students currently attending College, if you would like them to participate in the testing programme. As we currently have relatively few numbers of students in College, we are proposing to try and test them once per week, during this period of partial closure. To enable us to organise mass testing once College reopens fully, we would ask for the consent form for all other students to be completed by Monday 18th January. If students are 16 or over, they can complete the consent form themselves, but they should discuss their participation with a parent or carer first. With the reduced numbers we aren't yet using parent or carer volunteers as planned, but we will be in touch with all those people who have kindly offered their time and support, with information about online training. This will enable us to be prepared for mass testing all students, once College reopens fully.

Finally, there is a forecast for snow tomorrow, so for the families of those students who are due to attend College, I would ask you to familiarise yourselves with our arrangements for severe weather, last communicated in my newsletter on 4th December, found [here](#). If College does have to close for snow during this period of partial closure, remote learning will continue as normal. If College has to close tomorrow, the BTEC exam scheduled for the morning would not be able to take place. Thank you for your continued support and prayers. As always, if you do have questions about any of the issues above, please feel free to email my PA, Mrs Metheringham, at principalpa@allhallows.org.uk.

God Bless

Tim Beesley



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