

All Hallows Catholic College

A Voluntary Academy | National Teaching School

Aspire not to have more but to be more

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

Principal - Mr T Beesley

30th March 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

RE: COVID-19 (Coronavirus) – Updated Information and Advice for Parents and Carers

Home-College Communication

We are trying to find the right balance, between communicating with you too much and not communicating enough. So far, the feedback seems to suggest that we are getting the balance right, but I would ask for your patience if you think otherwise. We are suspending the weekly newsletter for the moment, to be replaced with my letters and, starting as from today, Year Learning Leaders will be publishing weekly blogs, including news, celebrations, advice, etc. These blogs will be placed on the College website and on Show My Homework. We will also be setting weekly challenges on the website, so the whole family can get involved, and there will be links to all these different communications on the College's Twitter account, @AllHallowsCC.

Working from Home

Whilst we have had some really positive feedback from parents and carers about how we are managing this very difficult situation, and how our staff are helping you to support your children through this crisis, we are conscious that some families are struggling with these novel circumstances we find ourselves in. Today I have written to staff, thanking them for their hard work and commitment, but also asking for sensitivity with regard to work being set.

Whilst we are trying to follow students' timetables when setting work, we all recognise that this is not a 'normal' situation. The DfE and the teaching unions have been very clear about this - *'this is not education as we have known it'*. The DfE has also said that it is *'working with the BBC and other partners to provide advice and support directly to parents, including online resources they can access for their children at home'* -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures/guidance-for-schools-about-temporarily-closing>

In the meantime, we are committed to trying to help our students maintain good working habits, as well as trying to limit any potential gaps in knowledge, if at all possible. However, staff will endeavour to set work that does not take too long (we think that about 2 ½ to 3 hours per day is realistic) and is accessible, bearing in mind the many different home contexts that our students are living in (families sharing one computer, children having access to a tablet rather than a PC, homes with no printer available, etc). I have also asked staff to be sensitive when following up on work that has not been completed. We do still have a duty of care to monitor our students, and to see if there is any further support that we could practically offer, but we also recognise that emails and messages about incomplete work could just add stress and anxiety to an already fraught situation. If by the end of this week, however, we are aware of any student who has not yet accessed Show My Homework since the College closed on 20th March, someone will be in touch with their parents or carers, to discuss the reasons why.

Staff will not be setting any work over the Easter holidays, as it is important whilst we 'work from home', that all of us - staff, students and families – try to treat the holidays differently. We would ask that if students have got work that they have not completed they do try to catch-up, if possible, otherwise, use the time creatively. We will continue to set challenges, but these are completely voluntary. Some staff have set work or challenges on social media platforms, like Instagram. We know that some of our students are too young to access these sites, and some parents also prefer their child not to use these apps. If a social media site is used to post a particular challenge, therefore, it will also be posted elsewhere, like the website or Show My Homework.



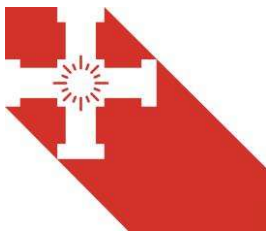
Honourable Purpose

Respect

Compassion

Co-operation

Stewardship



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

Exams & Grades

We have had no further details from the DfE or Ofqual about exactly how GCSE & A Level grades will be awarded this Summer. We do expect to receive guidance shortly, but in the meantime, we will not be publishing the planned reports for Years 11, 12 & 13 students. I know that this is an incredibly stressful time for our young people and their families, but as soon as we have more information about exams and grades, we will let you know.

Thank you very much for your feedback and continued support. Please keep safe, keep in touch, and keep your distance. Should you have any further concerns on this issue please do contact me at principalpa@allhallows.org.uk

God Bless

Tim Beesley
Principal



Honourable Purpose

Respect

Compassion

Co-operation

Stewardship