

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

24th April 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

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

I hope you and your families are well, and that you are enjoying this glorious weather. On Wednesday we celebrated Earth Day 2020, and under normal circumstances I would have been delivering assemblies about one of our College values, 'Stewardship'. One of the positive things to come out of this lockdown seems to be a far greater appreciation of the natural world around us, and I have had many conversations with people in recent weeks about nature and wildlife, and how they seem to be thriving under the current lockdown. There is a lovely reflection on our website and College Twitter account, from the perspective of the planet – *"When you come back, remember, you are my guests, not my masters!"*

As we come to the end of our first week 'back at school', I wanted to update you on the current situation regarding the closure of College:

Working from Home

The new timetable is up and running, and so far, the feedback has largely been positive, with just a couple of parents getting in touch to ask questions or express concerns. One parent, whilst recognising that we need to find the right balance for all, was concerned that the amount of work being set appeared to have dropped since the introduction of the new timetable. I explained that whilst subjects had fewer 'slots', the work set in each slot should be more than would have previously been set in one of the five-a-day slots. I have asked staff to ensure that they are setting both the quantity and quality of work to keep Key Stage 3 students working for at least 2½ to 3 hours per day, and longer for Years 10 & 12. I have also asked that voluntary extension work / independent learning tasks are also set for those students who want to do more.

ADT, Performing Arts, PE & Computing are setting their own additional pieces of work each week, and whilst we still want students to complete and submit these, I have asked that teachers do not 'chase-up' any work that is not returned. This is because we were getting feedback from several parents before Easter that not only were some families finding it difficult to complete the more practical type of work, but that contact from teachers was adding to families' stress and anxiety in what was already a difficult time. May I please clarify that these subject-specific pieces of work are different to the weekly whole-school challenges, and they are the sort of practical tasks that students would ordinarily be doing in their lessons in school - baking, painting, designing, composing, computing or exercising. These challenges will be set during the week, and can be completed at any time, but as Friday is a catch-up day, with no new work being set, then this is an ideal time to get them done.

Whilst some families have expressed concerns about teachers contacting students or parents about work that has not been completed, I am sure that you understand that we do have a duty of care to ensure that students are engaging with their remote-learning, and that we need to contact home if we have concerns. In the first instance the Subject Teacher will contact individual students by email or through Show My Homework. If, after 24 hours, the work has still not been completed to a satisfactory standard, then the Subject Teacher will contact parents or carers by email. If a student still fails to submit the work, then the Subject Leader will contact parents or carers, followed by the Year Learning Leader. **However, if a child cannot complete their work for some genuine reason, then I would ask that parents or carers contact their child's Form Tutor, in the same way they would have done if the school was still open, to explain, and we can then relay the message to the child's teachers.**



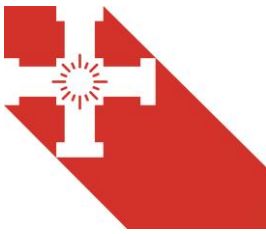
Honourable Purpose

Respect

Compassion

Co-operation

Stewardship



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Work Experience

Unfortunately, due to Covid19 we have made the difficult decision to cancel Year 10 Work Experience that was due to take place between 11th & 15th May. Changing Education will inform all employers and students will have some careers-related activities during this week. More information will follow.

Year 9 Pathways & Sixth Form Offers

A letter regarding Pathways was emailed to parents and carers of Year 9 students on Tuesday 7th April, and all relevant information, including presentations from 'option' subjects can be found on the College website at <https://www.allhallows.org.uk/pathways>. We have been advised that some parents thought they had not received this letter, as it had gone into their 'Junk' email folder. It may, therefore, be worth checking your 'Junk' folder for any other letters that have come from school. The deadline for completion and submission of Pathways forms is Monday 27th April. If you have any questions about the Pathways process, please email the relevant Subject Leaders or our Assistant Principal (Curriculum), Ms Gemma Roberts, at g.roberts@allhallows.org.uk.

Offer letters for places in Sixth Form have now been sent out, and the deadline for acceptance is also Monday 27th April.

Mental Health & Well-being

We are very aware of the fact that some of our students may be struggling during this period of lockdown. Our Year Learning Leaders will be including regular mindfulness activities in their weekly blogs, and the College website also includes lots of really useful links to websites such as NSPCC, Barnardos and the Mental Health Helpline, as well as local support such as Visyon Counselling and Just Drop-In. There is also a really useful presentation on practical exercises to help our mental health.

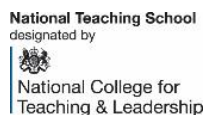
The weekly challenges on the College website, and the weekly Physical Activity challenges are also great ways of keeping our minds and bodies healthy, and they are there for the whole family.

Finally, congratulations to Mrs Lucy Michaels and her husband, on the birth of baby Barnaby Christopher Michaels.

Thank you for your continued support. Have a lovely weekend and enjoy the sunshine and stay safe.

God Bless

Tim Beesley
Principal



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