

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

19th March 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

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

Following on from my previous letters, I am writing to update you with respect to our ongoing plans to manage the rapidly changing situation.

Closure of College

The Secretary of State for Education announced yesterday that all schools in the UK will close their doors on Friday, except for vulnerable pupils or children of key workers, until further notice. An email was sent out earlier today, asking for any parent or carer who thinks that their child fits into one of these categories and would require a school place, to contact College. Apologies for such a quick turnaround, and thank you to all of the parents and carers who have come back to us so swiftly - it really does help us undertake our planning and, as I am sure you can appreciate, the situation is evolving and developing by the minute. We still await from central government the list of industries which are designated 'critical' and we will communicate this out to you once we have received it.

However, following the responses received so far, I wish to clarify the following points:

- We are attempting to establish a skeleton provision in our College, within the context of Government instruction that all adults should socially isolate and, where possible, work from home. This places extreme difficulty on establishing a sustainable workforce.
- In assessing whether or not you need College to undertake a provision for your child, please assess, in households where there are more than one responsible adult or young person, whether all are in the critical industry classification. In other words, in households with two parents or carers, **both** should be a 'key worker'.

These are very challenging times. The provision we will be able to put on in College will be no different than the provision we are able to offer on-line, and we would request that you give serious consideration over whether or not your child needs to attend College next week.

All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into College from Monday 23rd March onwards.

Please note that this is a national closure – as you may have heard in the news – so while it is a challenging situation, we are not alone. Whilst I appreciate that this is not ideal, if we do not follow the guidelines, we leave ourselves and our community in a vulnerable position. We will re-open fully as soon as we can and will let you know via text, email, the College website, and all other communication avenues open to us.

Exams

The UK government has said that GCSEs and A-levels in England will be cancelled this summer. We have spoken with all Year 11 & 13 students who were in College today, and have explained that the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State have both said that they will ensure that students receive the 'qualifications they need and deserve for their academic career'.



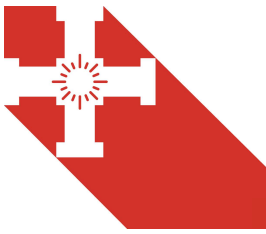
Honourable Purpose

Respect

Compassion

Co-operation

Stewardship



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The students we spoke with this morning were incredibly mature in their response to this unsettling news. We were very proud of them. They have worked so hard and this is a disappointment to us all, but we assured them that we will fight to ensure that they receive the fairest possible outcome. As we find out more, we will let you know.

We do not know when the College will be able to re-open, and many of our youngsters in Years 11 & 13 have been asking if tomorrow is their 'last day'. My answer, quite simply, has been 'I do not know'. We are, however, planning to celebrate their time at All Hallows, tomorrow. There will be special assemblies, photographs, and an opportunity for spare school shirts to be signed. If any Year 11 or 13 student is currently in self-isolation, however, they must not come into College.

Provision of Work

As previously communicated, we will ensure that all subjects have meaningful and accessible work set through Show My Homework, and work will be set according to a student's timetable on that day.

Safeguarding & Wellbeing

We have allocated staff to stay in contact with some of our most vulnerable children and families during this time. This will be done either by phone, email or online. We will continue to update you with information during this period of closure, and we will share resources to support the mental wellbeing of youngsters during these exceptional times.

As we all appreciate, this is a very difficult time for everyone, and our thoughts and prayers are very much with those who have been directly impacted by the Coronavirus, either physically, psychologically or financially. As a College we are working closely with the Local Authority and other schools, and I will continue to communicate with you, as and when there is new information.

Thank you very much for your continued understanding and patience. Thank you for all of your kind messages of support. Should you have any further concerns on this issue please do contact me at principalpa@allhallows.org.uk.

God Bless

Tim Beesley
Principal



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