

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

5th January 2021

Dear Parent or Carer,

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

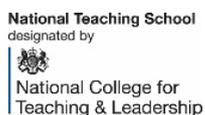
I hope you are well. Following on from my letter last Friday, I am writing to update you with respect to our ongoing plans to manage this rapidly changing situation.

Partial Closure of College & Exams

As you will be aware, the Prime Minister announced yesterday evening that all schools in England should once again close to all, except for vulnerable students or children of key workers, until at least February half-term. We were already prepared to welcome students from these two categories into College today, and to provide remote learning for everyone else. What we weren't prepared for, however, was how long this partial closure of College was to go on for. Neither were we prepared for the announcement about exams – *that 'it is not possible or fair for all exams to go ahead this summer as normal'*, and that Education Secretary Gavin Williamson will work with regulator Ofqual to put in place *'alternative arrangements'*. Whilst we await further information about what these alternative arrangements will be, the DfE has confirmed that the **BTEC and Vocational exams, due to be sat this week and next, will still go ahead**. In the meantime, I would like to assure our Year 11 & 13 students that we will do everything we can to ensure that their hard work and efforts are recognised and rewarded. My message to them is to stay positive, and to continue to engage with their online learning. The Year 11 Mock exams that were due to take place next week have been postponed, and when we receive more information from the DfE and Ofqual, we will make a decision about any future assessments.

Remote Learning

For those students who are working from home, they should continue to follow their normal College timetable for remote learning. Links for Microsoft Teams lessons will be emailed to students' College email addresses, and posted on Show My Homework. For any student who is still unsure about how to access their College email address or Microsoft Teams, there will be a Loom presentation posted on the Show My Homework and the College website by tomorrow morning. If a lesson is unable to be live-streamed, for whatever reason, alternative work will be posted on Show My Homework. 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 be 'live'. I have had lots of feedback from teachers, today, saying that the engagement of students from across all Year groups, in all subjects, has been really good.



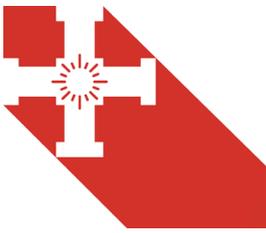
Honourable Purpose

Respect

Compassion

Co-operation

Stewardship



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The vulnerable students and children of critical workers, who are attending College, will also follow their usual timetable, and access their 'live' lessons through College computers.

Starting from this Thursday we would like all students to join their Form Tutor, at 8.55 am, for a daily Form meeting. This will give Form Tutors, and Year Learning Leaders, the opportunity to check in with their students, start the day with a prayer, share any notices, and give any support that may be required. The link for these Form meetings will also be emailed to students' College email addresses and put onto Show My Homework.

Attendance to all online lessons, and completion of work, is compulsory, and registers will be taken. If any families are having difficulty accessing work, please contact your child's Form Tutor in the first instance. It is imperative that students behave appropriately during these online lessons; anyone who does not will be removed from the lesson and not allowed to re-join. There will be no 1:1 video lessons, and staff who are teaching an online session where only one student has arrived will end the session. Please refer to the COVID Addendum in the College Rewards & Behaviour Policy for remote learning rules & expectations: <https://www.allhallows.org.uk/rewards-and-behaviour-policy>.

COVID-19 TESTING

Over the last two days, a group of College staff have completed a series of DfE training sessions on COVID-19 testing. Yesterday's announcement has changed some of the government's plans regarding mass testing in schools and colleges, but we are still intending to commence testing in College within the next couple of weeks, for staff and those students who are present. So far we have had a fantastic response to our request for help, with over 40 volunteers. We will be in touch with all those people who have offered their time and support, but in the meantime, if you or anyone you know would still like to volunteer, please complete this form: [Volunteering Form](#). It may be that we don't need to ask for volunteer support whilst we are in the current lockdown, but it would be good to know who we can call up on when the need arises.

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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