

# 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](mailto:admin@allhallows.org.uk) | [www.allhallows.org.uk](http://www.allhallows.org.uk)

Principal - Mr T Beesley

3<sup>rd</sup> 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. I want to thank you for your support over what has been a very difficult few weeks for our students. We have all worked hard to try and support them through the process of moving to remote learning, but without your support, and the incredible resilience of our children and young people, this would not have been possible.

I will not be writing to you again during the holiday period, unless there is something urgent that needs to be shared. We are going to try and have as normal an Easter holiday as possible, and I want College staff to try to switch-off and get some rest too, after what has been a difficult half-term for everyone. There will be no work set over the Easter holidays, and the weekly blogs will also be put on hold for a fortnight. The weekly challenges will continue, however, and some departments will be setting some Easter activities that the whole family can join in with. Thank you very much for all your messages of support – they are greatly appreciated.

As we approach the end of term, we are saying goodbye and thank you to some of our colleagues who are leaving us; Mr Gary Stroker, who has secured a teaching position at Altrincham College, Mrs Lucy Coates, who is returning to her previous career in clinical research, and Mrs Rachel Ellicott, who has decided to leave for personal reasons, after 15 years of working at All Hallows. We are also saying farewell to our Data Manager, Mrs Sue Skelton, who is retiring, after 24 years of service to the College. We wish them all the very best, and thank them for all that they have done for the benefit of the children and young people of the College. We also wish Mrs Lucy Michaels the very best, as she begins her maternity leave.

## Exams & Grades

Today, Ofqual have produced guidance for schools, students and parents about how qualifications will be graded and awarded in summer 2020:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/how-gcses-as-a-levels-will-be-awarded-in-summer-2020>

You can find a letter to students here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/877830/Letter\\_to\\_students\\_-\\_Summer\\_2020\\_grading.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877830/Letter_to_students_-_Summer_2020_grading.pdf)

You can find guidance for teachers, students, parents and carers here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/877842/Summer\\_2020\\_grades\\_for\\_GCSE\\_AS\\_A\\_level\\_EPQ\\_AEA\\_in\\_maths\\_-\\_guidance\\_for\\_teachers\\_students\\_parents.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877842/Summer_2020_grades_for_GCSE_AS_A_level_EPQ_AEA_in_maths_-_guidance_for_teachers_students_parents.pdf)

## Year 9 Pathways

Year 9 Pathways evening was supposed to have taken place this week, but due to coronavirus we are going to have to do things differently this year. Subject Leaders have all prepared presentations about their different subjects, and these will be placed on the College website early next week, along with the Pathways booklet and form. Parents of Year 9 students will receive an email and text to notify you when this has happened. The deadline for completion and submission of the forms is Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April. If you have any questions about the Pathways process, please



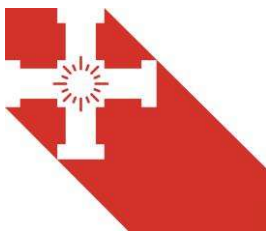
Honourable Purpose

Respect

Compassion

Co-operation

Stewardship



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email the relevant Subject Leaders or our Assistant Principal (Curriculum), Ms Gemma Roberts, at [g.roberts@allhallows.org.uk](mailto:g.roberts@allhallows.org.uk). Please do note, however, that you may not get a reply until after the holidays.

## Working from Home

Following on from Monday's letter, and my comments about work being set for students, we have continued to receive feedback from teachers, as well as updates from parents and carers. The issues that we currently have, apart from those previously highlighted, are that some students, including Sixth Formers, are becoming overwhelmed with the amount of notifications that they are receiving on Show My Homework. Some students are also finding it difficult to complete some of the work set, particularly in the more practical subjects, because of lack of resources (especially as we are all trying to go to the shops as infrequently as possible). It is clear from other feedback, however, that many families do appreciate the structure and routine that we are encouraging them to follow.

When we return from Easter, therefore, we will be setting work in a slightly different way, to try and support those students and families who are struggling:

- Instead of following the current daily timetable, we have created a new timetable for each Year Group, with three subjects per day (Monday to Thursday)
- For Years 7-10, the core subjects of English, Maths, Science & RE will have two allocated 'slots' per week, although one of their slots will be focused more on creative, thinking-skills tasks, that will not need to be submitted for marking or assessment - although students may submit and ask for feedback, if they want
- Geography, History, MFL & PE will have one slot per week each, for Years 7 - 9
- In Year 10, Option subjects, including Humanities, MFL, will have one slot each per week
- Friday will be a 'catch-up' day, and can also be used for completing the weekly challenges. These challenges will include contributions from Performing Arts, Art, Design & Technology, PE and Computing
- Challenges will be set towards the start of each week, so that students and their families can complete them in their own time, but will also know that no new work will be set on Fridays
- Sixth Form subjects will set work twice per week. Friday will also be a catch-up, challenge and Unifrog day

The benefits of this proposed system, as we see them, are that there will be less notifications on Show My Homework for students to cope with, and therefore less stress on parents and carers. Also, by making some of the more practical work an optional challenge, rather than compulsory exercise, this should ease pressure on families regarding resources, and will result in less of a need for teachers to 'chase-up' any un-submitted work, which can often result in additional stress and anxiety at home. We are also, however, maintaining structure and routine.

Whilst it is still the case that 2 ½ to 3 hours of work per day, for Years 7-9, is a realistic expectation, the work that will be set for Years 10 & 12 is likely to take longer – up to 4 or 5 hours per day. Teachers will also include extension work for Years 10 & 12, which will be optional, and will allow students to broaden their knowledge and understanding of the curriculum. The timetable will be sent home and placed on the College website before the start of the new term.

## Keeping our Students Safe Online while Working Remotely

It is imperative that we keep our students safe online. This perhaps becomes even more of a concern when we are expecting students to work remotely. The students have all received online safety training in College and understand the associated risks, but please make sure you are monitoring the websites your child is visiting. Attached to this letter is some guidance, taken from a variety of sources, including the Local Authority and the BBC.



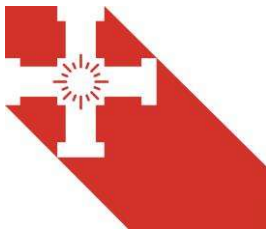
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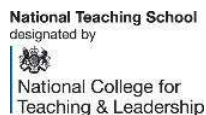
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Once again, thank you very much for all of your support and words of encouragement over recent weeks. Please keep safe, keep in touch, and keep your distance. Should you have any further concerns on this issue please do contact me at [principalpa@allhallows.org.uk](mailto:principalpa@allhallows.org.uk)

God Bless

Tim Beesley  
Principal



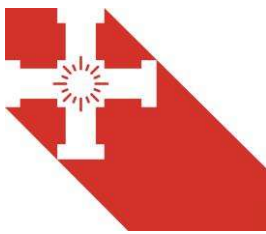
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## Where can I go to get support to keep my child safe online?

	<p>Thinkuknow is the education programme from the National Crime Agency's CEOP command. Thinkuknow aims to empower children and young people aged 5-17 to identify the risks they may face online and know where they can go for support.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.thinkyouknow.co.uk">https://www.thinkyouknow.co.uk</a></p>
	<p>Information, Advice and Support to Keep Children Safe Online - Internet Matters Tips &amp; Advice. From age-specific online safety checklists to guides on how to set parental controls on a range of devices, you'll find a host of practical tips to help children get the most out of their digital world.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.internetmatters.org/">https://www.internetmatters.org/</a></p>
	<p>Support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online. From NCA-CEOP and The Parent Zone. The embed is a really simple way for schools and organisations to automatically include the latest tips, expert advice and resources from Parent Info directly on their own websites.</p>	<p><a href="https://parentinfo.org">https://parentinfo.org</a></p>
	<p>The London Grid for Learning is a community of schools and local authorities committed to using technology to enhance teaching &amp; learning. LGfL schools receive: LGfL provide support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online</p>	<p><a href="https://www.lgfl.net/online-safety/default.aspx/">https://www.lgfl.net/online-safety/default.aspx/</a></p>
	<p>Net Aware brings together the NSPCC's expertise in protecting children and O2's tech know-how, we've got everything you need to help you keep your kids safe online. Whether you're an online expert or you're unsure of where to start, we're here to help.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.net-aware.org.uk">https://www.net-aware.org.uk</a></p>



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