

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

13th January 2021

Dear Parent or Carer,

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

I hope you and your families are well. Whilst there haven't been any significant developments since I last wrote to you, there is some information that I would like to share with you, and whilst we are in this latest national lockdown, I think it is important that I continue to communicate with you regularly. The weekly newsletter will also be resuming later this week, with news about what our students have been working on, both at home and in College.

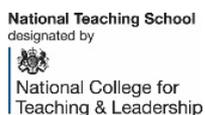
Free School Meals & School Catering

We have been assured by the DfE that the national Free School Meal voucher scheme should be back up and running again soon. In the meantime, schools are being encouraged to offer food parcels or local alternatives for those children in receipt of a Free School Meal. Until the voucher scheme is operational, we will be using the Morrisons School Box scheme, and parents and carers of those students in receipt of Free School Meals were written to earlier this week, asking them to contact our Finance Office by the end of the day on Tuesday 12th January, if they wanted us to arrange a delivery.

For the last couple of weeks our catering company has continued to offer a limited lunchtime service for all students attending College. Unfortunately, this arrangement is unsustainable given the number of students requiring food, and as from this Friday it will temporarily cease. **As from Monday 18th January, therefore, all students attending College will need to bring a packed lunch with them.** Families in receipt of Free School Meals will be able to use their food parcels, in the first instance, to provide their child with a packed lunch, and then their food vouchers. If anyone needs extra assistance, however, or would like to discuss any of the above with us, please contact our Finance Office at finance@allhallows.org.uk.

Remote Learning

Overall, engagement in online lessons has been very strong, and the feedback that we have received from students and their parents or carers has been positive. We know that some families are finding remote learning a challenge, though, and if there is anything that you think we can do to help, please get in touch. We are aware that some students may be finding it difficult to stay organised, given the fact that most of their exercise books or files may still in College. We cannot, however, allow students to come into College to collect their work, but teachers will support their classes by emailing resources and work to College email addresses and posting them on Show My Homework. We are also preparing a short presentation, that will



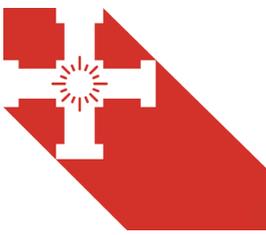
Honourable Purpose

Respect

Compassion

Co-operation

Stewardship



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explain to students how they can keep their work organised, either on their computer at home or by using remote access to the College IT system. In the meantime, parents and carers can help their children by purchasing basic stationary, such as notebooks, files, etc, from their local supermarket or newsagent.

We are closely monitoring attendance at virtual lessons, as well as the completion of work. A member of staff will be in touch with the family of any student who is not engaging as well as we would expect, to ask if there are any particular circumstances that we should be aware of, and to offer support. However, if you know that your child cannot attend a lesson or 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 College was still open, to explain, and we can then relay the message to the child's teachers.

Practical Lessons (ADT, PE & Performing Arts)

We are trying to ensure that those students attending College continue to have PE lessons, so when they have a PE lesson on their timetable, they can attend College in their PE kit, and they will **not** need to bring their College uniform to get changed into, after the lesson. These students may also have the opportunity to receive some ADT & Performing Arts lessons, depending on which members of staff are in College at any given time. As mentioned in previous letters, 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 necessarily be 'live'. This work is **not** optional, though, and still needs to be completed.

Mental Health & Well-being

We are very aware of the fact that some of our students may be struggling during this period of partial closure, just like some of them did during the first national lockdown. The College website has lots of really useful links and information, and they can be accessed [here](#).

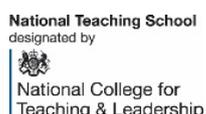
COVID-19 Testing

We have begun the testing of staff and students in College. There is a folder on the College [website](#) containing a lot of information about asymptomatic testing, including a link to the [electronic consent form](#) which must be completed by 9am on Monday 18th January for **all** students, if you would like them to participate in the testing programme, once College reopens fully.

Thank you for your continued support, and 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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