

# All Hallows Catholic College

A Voluntary Academy | National Teaching School

*Aspire not to have more but to be more*

Brooklands Avenue, Macdesfield, Cheshire SK11 8LB | Telephone: 01625 426138 | Fax: 01625 468126 | admin@allhallows.org.uk | www.allhallows.org.uk

Principal - Mr T Beesley

24<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

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

I am writing to update you with respect to students working at home, and the rapidly changing situation with regard to the Covid-19 pandemic.

### Working from Home

Following on from all schools closing, to all but our vulnerable students and those of 'key workers', the Prime minister announced yesterday that we must all **stay at home**, and:

- Only go outside for food, health reasons or essential work
- Stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home

The single most important action we can all take, in fighting coronavirus, is to stay at home in order to protect the NHS and save lives. You can find more information about staying at home and away from others here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/full-guidance-on-staying-at-home-and-away-from-others>

I know that many of you will have been helping your children come to terms with what is a new concept for many of us, 'working from home'. As I explained to all those students who were in College on Friday, we are committing ourselves to a new style of learning, and we are all in this together. There are some key things that you can help our children (and yourselves) with:

- **Get started early** – no long lie-ins
- **Act as if you are going into College** - get up, get ready, adopt your usual pre-work routine
- **Get dressed** - for many home-workers the point of getting dressed is being forced to shower and change out of clothes they associate with sleep and rest, even if that means just changing into a T-shirt and jeans.
- **Set up a space that you can work from comfortably** - that means, not your bed or your sofa, but actually sitting at a table to ensure you have good posture
- **Structure your day like you would do in College** - work will be set according to a student's timetable on that day.
- **Take breaks** - provide yourself with breaks so that you are able to keep focused and avoid burnout.
- **Make it harder for yourself to mess around on social media** - social media is designed to make it easy for you to open and browse quickly. Whilst working, though, this can be an unwelcome distraction – put your phone aside or turn it off for periods of time
- **Stay in contact** - working from home does not have to mean working in isolation. Keep talking to your friends, preferably during your breaks, but you may want to discuss a particular piece of work with them, too.
- **Get some exercise** – there are lots of YouTube videos to help people exercise from home, including 'PE with Joe', every morning at 9.00am (for the whole family). The PE Faculty are also setting some fantastic work for all students, which can be completed in the home.
- **Get some fresh air** –possibly in your garden, but remember to keep your distance!

Colleagues at Sandbach school have put together the following presentation, which you may also find useful:

<https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/read/63161979/home-teaching-guide> .

I know that Show My Homework is struggling under the pressure of so many people wanting to use it, all at the same time. I know that the company is aware of the issues and are trying their best to keep the platform operating effectively. I would like to thank you for your patience during this time, but if you do have any particular questions about working from home or work being set, please contact your child's teacher, Form Tutor, or Year Learning Leader. Staff are keeping in touch with their students via SMHW or College email - all students have a College email, and staff will not respond to a student's personal email address.



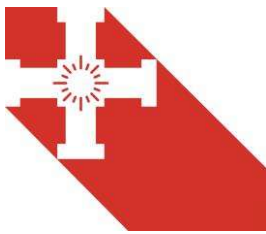
Honourable Purpose

Respect

Compassion

Co-operation

Stewardship



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Starting on Monday, Year Learning Leaders will be writing a weekly blog for their particular Year Group. We would really like our students to keep in touch with their teachers, and share their experiences of working at home; let us know what you are doing to pass the time, what new skills you have learned, and what you are proud of. This can then be shared on the blog. We will also be setting weekly challenges for our students and their families, which are not linked directly to the curriculum, but which will keep us all busy and active, in both mind and body.

## Exams & Grades

On Friday the DfE gave some indication about how GCSE & A Level students would be awarded grades this academic year. The information can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced>

What the DfE has said is that 'exam boards will be asking teachers, who know their students well, to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe the student would have received if exams had gone ahead'. Furthermore the exam boards will then 'combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment, and use this information to produce a calculated grade for each student, which will be a best assessment of the work they have put in'.

They have also said that students will be able to appeal their grades if they do not believe the correct process has been followed. In addition, 'if they do not feel their calculated grade reflects their performance, they will have the opportunity to sit an exam at the earliest reasonable opportunity, once schools are open again. Students will also have the option to sit their exams in summer 2021.'

Because the DfE have said that students will be able to sit an exam as either part of the appeal process, or in Summer 2021, we will continue to set work for Years 11 & 13, to ensure that all subject content has been delivered. We will then begin to set work which will help our young people with transition to the next stage of their journey, whether it be Sixth Form, University, apprenticeship or work.

There is still a great amount of detail to be decided by the exam boards and the DfE, so I would ask that, in the meantime, you do not contact individual teachers to ask about exams or grades. When we have more information we will let you know. I know that this is a very difficult time, but once again, I thank you for your patience.

These are unprecedented times, and our thoughts and prayers are very much with those who have been directly impacted by the Pandemic. Thank you very much for your continued understanding and support. 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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