



ST MARY'S COLLEGE

27th April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As we enter our second month of lockdown, our new ways of living, working and learning have given us much to reflect upon. For many of us, the burden of time spent in relative isolation weighs heavy as we miss our loved ones, our friends and our routines. We have seen many extraordinary actions and efforts from our students and staff to support others and commend all those who are lifting our spirits and inspiring us with their contribution.

Whilst as yet there is no specific plan in place for students to return to school, this is very high on the national agenda. We are working to be ready to welcome students at whatever point it is safe and right to do so but, in the meantime, it is essential that work set is completed each day to the very best of each student's ability. Please continue to support and encourage, ensuring a regular routine in line with our school day. If any issues arise or you require any additional resource, please get in touch or discuss them with your child's personal tutor when they call.

Regular guidance continues to be provided by central government to schools. I write today to outline some key messages in response to the latest learning.

At a time when everyone is making greater use of their internet connection and various devices, it is more important than ever that we consider the issue of online safety, especially when this relates to our young people. We are delighted that so many of our pupils are engaging with our online learning tasks. However, we urge you to continue to monitor the internet sites that your child is visiting on their laptop/tablet or via their phone.

Sadly, there are people who will look to exploit any changes in society and the current situation is providing an opportunity for criminal behaviour. This is nothing to be immediately alarmed about and a check of your child's internet history is often sufficient to detect anything worrying. Please remain vigilant for any changes in behaviour, opinion or language; anything which might indicate that a child has been contacted by strangers or is accessing unusual content. Much more information and support is available on our website and on the Safeguarding section of our SMC Study platform. As ever, if at any time you are concerned about any aspect of your child's e-safety, please contact the school via the Head of Year.

Useful websites:

www.thinkuknow.co.uk
www.getsafeonline.org
www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/coronavirus-advice-support-children-families-parents/
www.actionfraud.police.uk
www.smchull.org
<https://smc23.sharepoint.com/sites/SMCStudy/SitePages/Support,-Advice-and-Guidance.aspx> (students)

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Mr G Fitzpatrick

Head of School
Mr D Perry





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If you have children who were expecting to sit exams this summer the you will be aware that schools will soon be asked to provide centre assessed grades. Unfortunately, as explicitly directed by Ofqual and the Department for Education, College staff are not permitted under any circumstances, to share or discuss details of centre assessment grades with students, or their parents/carers or any other individuals outside of the organisation. Therefore, can I ask that you do not contact the school or any individual teachers about the grades that will be provided. It is important to note that our contribution is only the start of a process and any data we provide is subject to adjustment as part of national moderation and standardisation.

I hope that it will reassure parents to remind you of the government commitment, 'that no child should be disadvantaged by the cancellation of examinations'. We must therefore trust that the allocation of grades, in line with the guidance set out by Ofqual, will be fair and equitable.

If you have any questions, then you will find all information regarding the awarding of grades on the DfE website. Please follow this link to the most recent updates:

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

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the consultation process regarding the development of a Trust wide policy for Relationships Education in our Primary schools and Relationships and Sex Education at St Mary's College. The draft policy can be read on the St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Multi Academy Trust website (http://www.stcuthbertshull.co.uk/news_single?e=21) along with details of how to share any feedback on the Policy. The consultation period ends on Friday 8th May 2020.

On behalf of the staff at St Mary's College I offer our thoughts and prayers for all those in our community and anyone connected to them as we continue to navigate through this challenging period together.

Stay safe and take care.

Yours sincerely

Mr D Perry
Head of School

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