



5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the recent announcement by the Prime Minister to initiate a further national lockdown, I write to share our initial response and outline emerging plans.

At St Mary's we have invested significantly in developing our platforms for remote education and have learned a great deal from our experience to date. We are now as well placed as at any point to respond to the challenges presented by the current circumstances.

**Week commencing 4<sup>th</sup> January** - Live lessons began today for Years 11-13 and for all Year 10 subjects with terminal assessments in 2021. These will continue as planned. In addition, work has now been uploaded for Years 7-9 and any subjects in Year 10 where live lessons are not currently provided. This is available to complete independently from period 1 tomorrow (Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January) for the remainder of this week.

**Remote learning from 11<sup>th</sup> January** - We are currently working hard to refine our remote learning offer to each year group from next week. This will include a blend of significant live teaching each day for all years with staggered opportunities to work away from a device through structured independent activities. The proportion of live teaching will relate to your child's stage of education and the subjects they study. Our aim is to engage children in their learning with an appropriately balanced provision, which effectively promotes relevant knowledge and skill acquisition across the curriculum. There will be opportunities provided for tailored physical activity to promote health and wellbeing and a suite of additional support available through our community SMC Study area. All students will also receive regular contact with personal tutors who will provide a further point of access for families to seek any advice, guidance or support as required.

If you have any concerns about access to remote learning please get in touch with your child's year office at the earliest opportunity. Further details will be forthcoming from specific year teams shortly, including with regards to planned events such as for mock exam results.

Thank you for your support. We will update you with details of government plans, particularly with regard to examination cohorts, as soon as they are made available.

Yours sincerely

Mr D Perry | **Head of School**

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