

St. Gregory's Catholic High School

Cromwell Avenue, Westbrook, Warrington, Cheshire, WA5 1HG.
Telephone: 01925 574888



Headteacher

Mr E McGlinchey BSc (Hons), NPQH & NPQEL

27th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

In normal circumstances at this time of year I would normally reviewing the Spring term with you and very much looking forward to the Summer term as part of my end of term letter, however we have entered into unprecedented times as a result of the Covid-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak. This is an extremely difficult time for the whole world, a time filled with uncertainty and many questions, but it is also a time where everyone of us must follow the guidance and advice we have been given as well as contributing to the solution where we can. It is a time to be a strong community that supports each other and pulls together with understanding.

It was extremely upsetting for me, the staff of the school and the pupils that we had to close the school so suddenly last Friday in such an abrupt set of circumstances in what was only week 24 of the school year. As a community we were very much looking forward to 14 more important weeks still to come including the summer term with still lots of important learning and work still to be done.

School partial closure due to Covid-19

St Gregory's is currently only partially open for the families of critical key workers and we are operating a minimal staff rota with those staff that are actually available. Our own staff have circumstances and guidance to follow including self-isolating, social distancing, underlying health issues, family members with underlying health issues and childcare constraints and as an employer I need to ensure the safety of both pupils and staff by minimising contact where at all possible through working from home and restricting contact.

Whilst the school works with the pupils of key workers in school, our staff are providing work remotely via our online systems to our pupils who are at home. We have also provided work packs and sent subject exercise books home too. I am sure you will appreciate that remote learning provides challenges for teachers but we will do our very best to maintain quality within the obvious restrictions. Can I please ask that all exercise books are well looked after so that they can return in good condition when the school reopens.

I have sent out a separate letter to parents and carers of **Year 11** concerning examinations but as **Year 10** are 24 weeks into their 2 year GCSE courses it is important that home work is well maintained whilst at home in order to reduce gaps in knowledge when they return to school. I hope that the government will be taking Year 10 into consideration too, given the time in school that has been lost.

Year 9 recently made their option choices and Miss Lavin and Mr Wiles will be continuing to review the choices that have been made and are putting these together into classes ahead of the construction of our timetable for the next academic year. I am aware that **Year 7** and **Year 8** are working hard at

'One family... inspired to learn.'

SEAL it with RESPECT

Fax: 01925 243816

Email: schoolenquiry@stgregoryshigh.com

Website: www.stgregoryshigh.com

St. Gregory's R.C. High School Appeal Trust. A REGISTERED CHARITY



home too and I have enjoyed reviewing the many examples of work being done at home including one example from PE where some of our pupils are putting together a homework physical activity plan which includes helping parents to stay active too!

Families that have entitlement to Free School Meals should by now be aware that the school will be posting out food vouchers and the first batch of these have already been sent to families this week.

The school will continue to communicate with you through letters, school comms updates and our Twitter account and as and when we receive information from the government, we will distribute this information to you.

Spring Term

The spring term itself was extremely successful up till the partial closure. The school received its 'Good' Ofsted report in mid-January which made positive reading with wonderful quotes about your children. The school have been in the press a number of times recently too as a result of the achievements of our pupils particular relating to the positive footprint they are leaving on the rest of the community through eco work, leading on mental health initiatives and charity work.

We have launched our 'Ambition for all' initiatives in school and there will be more around this to share with you as our 'Ambition for all' ethos involves all members of our school community and parents will play a vital part in this. Other highlights of the term include the development of our pupil leadership teams, commencement of new extracurricular clubs including many sports and crafts clubs, literacy programmes, significant new investment for our library, careers events, transition events with primary schools and trips to many locations around the country including Menai with the Drama team.

Summer Term advanced notice

I will provide more extensive details on arrangements for the summer term when there is more information from the government, however for now, I wanted to provide some key dates and times.

Please note that the amended early May bank holiday for this year for VE celebrations is Friday 8th May 2020 should this be applicable in the current school partial closure situation.

The final school day of this academic year will be **Thursday 23rd July and the school will close to pupils on this day at the earlier time of 12.45pm**. The bus companies will be informed of this earlier closure time. Friday 24th July is an INSET day for staff.

Please remember that the school is always open to parents via telephone and email should you need to discuss any aspect concerning your child. The school is currently only operating with a 'skeleton crew' but we will do our best to get back to you in a timely manner. Communication between the school and parents is highly important to me, so there is no question that is too big or small when it comes to the care or progress of your child. We also have a dedicated Safeguarding team on our current rota too to check in on our most vulnerable pupils.

Finally, on behalf of myself and all connected with St. Gregory's, I would like to wish you and your family good health, safety and positivity during these challenging times and I also want to wish you a Holy and restful Easter as we continue to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus.

Yours sincerely,



E. McGlinchey
Headteacher