

St. Gregory's Catholic High School

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



Headteacher
Mr E McGlinchey BSc (Hons) NPQH & NPQEL

19th April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I write to you at the end of the Easter 'holiday' and as we prepare to start the new Summer term in the most unusual circumstances as our nation and world continues the battle against the Covid-19 outbreak. I hope that you, and your wider families and friends all continue to be safe and well and that you have been spared any symptoms, health concerns or other hardships linked to this awful disease. I can tell you from the heart that not having pupils in school simply has not been the same and I am very much looking forward to welcoming our community back to school once it has finally been deemed safe and appropriate to do so.

Continued school closure arrangements

The government has announced that the national lockdown will continue for 'at least' 3 more weeks which takes us up until Thursday 7th May 2020.

During this time the school will continue to operate as it has done during the closure via very small teams of staff who are on a daily rota to support the children of critical key workers such as nurses whilst also ensuring that the work of the school continues in the background such as welfare and support calls home to appropriately identified pupils and families.



The minimal rota system we have in place has worked very well so far as a result of the sensible approach of both parents and staff to ensure pupils numbers are small enough to be manageable in school and therefore reducing risk to all. Please continue to keep your children safe at home, unless you are a critical key worker without any other means of childcare.

If you are not a key worker, or you are a key worker who has support with childcare, your children should not attend school. This keeps your children safe from infection and it keeps our staff safe too.

Free School Meals Vouchers – if you are entitled to free meals vouchers and you have not received your voucher, please contact the school immediately and we will ensure that this is swiftly rectified.

When formal announcements are made by the government to reopen schools, I am sure that there will be strict guidance and procedures that schools and parents will be asked to follow and when this information is released, the school will keep you informed on how we all need to proceed.

One family... inspired to learn.'

SEAL it with RESPECT

Fax: 01925 243 816

Email: schoolenquiry@stgregoryshigh.com

Website: www.stgregoryshigh.com



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



Home school learning arrangements – Day 11 onwards

Tomorrow, we officially enter day 11 since the commencement of the school closure and therefore teachers will continue to send work home in line with planned subject curriculum sequencing of topics, Feedback from you has been very positive to date but I do ask for your continued patience and understanding given the obvious challenges that setting online work presents for both you as parents and staff and of course the reduced quality of face to face interaction with a specialist teacher and available appropriate resources.

Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 (Year 11 discussed below)

A schedule for assessment and feedback for all subjects will be sent to you this week which will involve pupils sending work back to their teachers every 2 to 3 weeks (depending on the subject) so that work can be assessed with feedback. More details via class charts on this so please regularly log in to classcharts.

Year 9 Options

The options choice forms were fortunately all handed in from pupils before the school closure commenced so the behind the scenes I have been working on the construction of next years new timetable and Miss Lavin has been working on fitting the choices pupils have made into classes. To finalise the options process, there will be a number of pupils contacted at home via phone over the coming weeks where some pupil choices will need to be discussed and reviewed due to class sizes and availability.

Year 10

Year 10 will be set examinations / assessments to be completed at home soon and we still hope to conduct mock examinations in school before the end of this academic year, guidance permitting. Again, see classcharts for specific details and guidance during this week. We are also part of the national conversation around how Year 10 will be looked upon by exam boards as a result of the closure disruption.

Year 11 Examination Grades

Teachers have now received the guidance from the government and examination boards regarding the organisation of collation of final grades for pupils and we are in the process of preparing the required information that has been requested. In the mean time, we strongly advise that Year 11 should continue home study to both keep their minds active and to ensure a smooth transition to September courses.

Our 'Stand up and be counted' mission continues to be strong

The national lockdown has not stopped our community continuing to live out the schools mission or our ability to leave a positive footprint. Mrs Dolphin, together with a team of dedicated staff, have been putting together food parcels for the local community following donations from staff and delivering them to households over the past few weeks. A campaign called 'dementia friends' will also be launched this week to support the most vulnerable in our community. Please keep an eye on classcharts and school comms for this.



I will continue to keep in regular contact with you via letter, twitter and school comms but please do not hesitate to ring or email the school at any time during this period of school closure. I will finish my letter with a line from one of my personal favourite school hymns. The hymn, *I will be with you*, was written by an English teacher, Gerard Markland, and it uses the words of Jesus to comfort us during difficult times such as these. ***“Come walk with me on stormy waters, why fear? Reach out, and I will be with you, wherever you go”.***

Yours Sincerely,
Mr McGlinchey