

St. Gregory's Catholic High School

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Headteacher
Mr E McGlinchey BSc (Hons) NPQH & NPQEL

Our Ref: PF/EM/03/20

19th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I write to you with my latest update following the most recent announcements from the government. As you will be aware schools are to close from Friday 20th March at 3pm 'until further notice'.

The priority now is for schools to support families of key workers and pupils with EHCP/Social Workers as best we can within the capacity of our own staffing availability. At present 'key workers' are described as; Social Workers, Supermarket workers/Delivery drivers, Teachers, NHS workers, Postal workers and Police officers. Other definitions may be added to this group as time goes on.

St Gregory's will open school between Monday 23rd March and the 3rd April with available staff on a daily rotation to accommodate the pupils that are eligible to come into school between the dates mentioned above excluding weekends.

I have asked all staff who are available to provide me with details of when they can support this measure in line with their own domestic pressures. I have been overwhelmed with staff who have stepped forward to support families as best as possible, but this is still limited.

Therefore, when pupils of key workers/ECHP/social workers arrive at school on Monday they will be split into groups and there will be a timetable of classes and activities staffed by the teachers who are able to come into school. There will also be a number of support staff in school to help with operational and administrative tasks; the school day will run from 8.45am until 3pm.

If your child is not a child of a key worker/EHCP or with a Social Worker they should not attend school as of Monday 23rd March as we will not have the capacity to supervise additional pupils.

If your child is entitled to a free school meal, our canteen will be open between Monday 23rd March and Friday 3rd April to provide breakfast and lunch which can be collected by pupils if they arrive at school to claim their entitlement.

The pastoral team will be in school over the next two weeks to allow phone contact with pupils who are on our vulnerable lists so that we are available for advice and support and also to check on their wellbeing.

I must point out that St Gregory's will support the continued opening of our school based on the availability of our own staff. As you will no doubt understand, a significant number of staff will have their own families to consider at home, as well as childcare issues and self-isolating advice, therefore, our operational running of the school will be constantly reviewed in line with how many qualified professionals are available to support pupils.

One family... inspired to learn.'

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From the 3rd April, our plan to open the school will once again be reviewed when hopefully there is some clarity from the government about what schools should do going forward.

For pupils at home, all work will be provided daily, via our class charts app and many other online educational resources and revision sites. These online resources include:

Classcharts (this is where staff will send pupils work), GCSE Pod (for GCSE Revision), MyMaths, Maths Watch, Corbett Maths, Maths Genie, English Instagram, BBC Bitesize, Viva for Modern Languages, Seneca and Kerboodle for RE and Science.

Classcharts, which will be the main source of work for pupils is accessed via: <https://www.classcharts.com/student>
Pupils also have access to RM unify to access many other resources including Computing / ICT work.

Year 11

This morning I attended each Year 11 form group to speak with them face to face, as they will clearly have worries and anxieties about the extensive efforts they have put into their studies and this being fairly reflected in their final outcomes. Year 11 will also be worried about moving on to their next destinations at colleges and apprenticeships. To ensure predictions are up to date, I have asked all teachers to enter the most up to date grade predictions for Year 11 pupils today so that these accurately reflect their improved progress since the last predicted grade data collection. A printout of each pupils full set of predictions will be available once this data collection exercise has been completed.

I also spoke with college leaders directly over the phone last night and I have been assured that our Year 11's will not be disadvantaged in any way with regards to their application for places at these colleges. All of the college leaders I spoke to were emphatic about welcoming St Gregory's pupils to their institutions in September and I will personally support all pupils if there are issues with getting into college.

Year 11 will naturally feel upset and uncertain about ending their time here at St Gregory's in the right manner and I have assured them there will be a fitting conclusion to their time at St Gregory's as and when we are clearer about schools reopening.

It is absolutely essential that all pupils continue to study and use the online resources that have been listed above. The government have not been completely clear as to any alternative examination arrangements and could make new announcements, **but it is extremely important that pupils continue to study so that they are ready for all eventualities and to be prepared for their next courses.**

A list of general and safeguarding information, which may be useful, will be available on the homepage of our website as well as via our other online platforms.

I will continue to keep you informed as and when changes are announced but as a strong community we must keep each other in our prayers, remain positive and calm and above all, understand that we are in such unprecedented times meaning we need to support each other.

Yours sincerely,

Mr E McGlinchey
Headteacher