

St Gabriel's

Roman Catholic High School



24 April 2020

Dear Parents and carers,

We hope that you and your families are safe and well and we pray for those of you who are not.

You may have heard on the news initial talks of re-opening schools. Just to clarify, we have heard nothing formally to this end. We completely understand parents and carers worrying about how their children will catch up their missed education, but please be reassured that we are taking this into account and that every child nationally will be in the same position and therefore, your child will not be disadvantaged.

Our highest priority is your child's health and well-being and should the Government announce that schools will re-open, we will contact you regarding our plans. I am sure you will understand that if social distancing remains in place, the logistics of having over 1,000 students in one building will be a challenge and therefore, there may well be a staggered return to school or staggered timetable in place. You will be informed as soon as such plans are put into action.

Parents of children who were expecting them to be taking GCSEs this summer will be interested to know that some guidance and information has started to come into schools. For example, GCSE results will now be released on the same date as originally planned, the 20th of August. Though there is still a consultation open (which closes on the 29th April) and we await its outcomes, there are some outcomes which are likely to be imposed onto all schools. Firstly, it appears that teachers will not be permitted to discuss gradings except with those active in the process, and therefore we have told all our teachers to conform to this. Consequently we politely ask, that you do not approach teachers for information, including by email. We also believe by doing so it could be deemed as malpractice and could result in sanctions towards the school as an examination centre.

In respect to the final results, the Secretary of State has said in his direction to Ofqual that students will have access to a right of appeal. He has also said they would be able to take their exams as soon as reasonably possible once schools and colleges have re-opened, should they choose to do so. Ofqual are consulting on how appeals and future examinations will work. We aim to keep you informed of future developments.

For families who may be experiencing mental health concerns, please take the opportunity to follow the links below, but our form teachers should be contacting anyone vulnerable daily and the pastoral team weekly.

<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/looking-after-children-and-young-people-during-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/>

<https://www.google.co.uk/amp/s/happiful.com/5-ways-to-support-your-mental-wellbeing-while-homeschooling/amp/>

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"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full"

Justice, Tolerance, Forgiveness and Generosity

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Some parents and carers have expressed worries about their children completing work online and the large amounts of work being set. Again, please be reassured that we understand this and in the current climate, we are all challenged. It is however, essential for Year 10s to be dedicating at least 3 hours per day to their school work, as we have no guarantee that the Government will not expect them to complete their GCSEs as usual next year. To this end, it is likely that we will make after school interventions compulsory for next Year's Y11.

Finally, we would like to draw your attention to the following link regarding online safety for your children.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

God bless and stay safe.

Your St Gabriel's Family and Community.