

St Gabriel's

Roman Catholic High School



19 March 2020

Dear parents and carers

SCHOOL CLOSURES: COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS

Following the Prime Minister's unprecedented announcement that, in order to slow the spread of Covid-19 Coronavirus, schools will close indefinitely from this Friday, we are working out the key steps in moving forward to ensure that the children of key workers are served in the required way. The Government has confirmed that they will be looking at ways to continue to support students in receipt of Free School Meals; and that examinations will not take place in the summer. Once we know more information, we will let you know, however, we can confirm that our caterers are not employed by school, they are a private company and therefore we have no control regarding whether food will be available if school is open for vulnerable children or those of emergency / key worker parents.

It is possible that Local Authority hubs may be established for students whose parents are key workers to attend, depending upon need. We will keep you up to date with this possibility as soon as we have any confirmation.

For children who have both parents who are key workers or live in a single family situation with a parent/carer who is a key worker and therefore will need to attend school, lessons are likely to be in mixed year group settings in the hall, as we cannot predict the availability of staff. **We will not expect the children of parents/carers who have one parent / carer who is a key worker and one who is not to attend school.**

We sincerely thank all families for their support during these challenging times, where priority must be on the health and wellbeing of all. Our pastoral team will be continuing to support families during this unsettling time and will stay in close contact. For any safeguarding issues, the Designated Safeguarding Leader in school is Mrs Roberts. If you have any concerns please email to safeguarding@st-gabriels.org.uk. **Please ensure these emails are solely regarding safeguarding/child protection issues, as we cannot risk an email getting overlooked due to an influx of unrelated emails regarding any other concern regarding the current situation.**

Please do not email staff directly during this period whilst school is closed. Staff will be in some cases working from home and in some cases in school, but we urge you to follow the links to online learning for your children and avoid emailing school wherever possible. We will be working with a skeleton staff and therefore, will be unable to deal with the usual number of calls and emails we take on a daily bases. We cannot guarantee that staff will attend regularly either, due to the uncertainty of their health, but we will endeavour to support the children of emergency and key workers, for whom we have huge respect, as far as possible. Any other queries should be directed via the contact email on the school's website.

Distance learning materials can be found via the following links;

www.satchelone.com (for Show my homework) OR
<https://scien80.wixsite.com/workfromhome>.

The latter contains information about curriculum time for each year group. It also houses links to Century Tech, GCSEPod, Educake, Show My Homework, MathsWatch, Vocab Express and Accelerated Reader (yr7) - all resources we have purchased for our children. Further links are provided to BBC Bitesize, Quizlet, Twinkl (useful for KS2 learning), Gojimo, Goconqr, the school's KS4 revision website and Seneca (for KS3 and GCSEs).

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

Justice, Tolerance, Forgiveness and Generosity

Headteacher Miss L Corrigan BSc (Hons), PGCE, PGDip, FRSB
Telephone 0161 764 3186
Email stgabriels@bury.gov.uk
Website www.st-gabriels.org.uk
Postal address Bridge Road, Bury, BL9 0TZ



@stgabsbury



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On the home page there is also an email address in case students want help with passwords. This will be monitored at a distance by staff online at intervals throughout the school week.

If you are a parent of a Y11 student, we will update you regarding the Government's announcement regarding GCSE grades and how these will be calculated as soon as we have had clarification from the Prime Minister and his team. However, we would like to reassure you that if you are unhappy with the grades your child receives, there will be an appeals process and school will support you to follow this.

Parents and carers of Y6 students awaiting transition will receive information nearer the time regarding our transition process, but please be reassured that if school is directed to stay closed until September, we will induct your child in a sensitive and supportive manner into our community at this time and will support all families by sharing the information they will need. We will update the parents section of the website with transition information for you to read and absorb during our closure.

Our immediate priority is to ensure that the next two days are positive ones for our learners and that all our children feel supported by school.

We send our prayers to all our families at this challenging time, especially to those we will be depending upon for emergency care and vital supplies.

All our staff will be working relentlessly on developing new outstanding schemes of learning if they have to self-isolate and this has been fully discussed with staff, with deadline and quality expectations. We will ensure your child receives the very highest standards of education on their return.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. B. Corrigan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lisa Corrigan
Headteacher