

St Gabriel's

Roman Catholic High School



23 March 2020

SCHOOL CLOSURES: COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS

Dear parents and carers,

We write to inform you that St Gabriel's is now closed. We thank you for taking the decision to keep your children at home, where the Government and all health advice has stated it is safest for them to be.

We advise you to implement social distancing rigorously and to follow the Government's guidelines stringently.

We will of course update you if there are any changes to the Government's directives to school.

If you are a parent/carer of a Year 11 child, please see the following information from our exams officer;

On Friday 20th March the government published its guidance regarding this year's GCSE examinations. The examinations, as you may know, have been cancelled.

This guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcse-as-and-a-levels-in-2020>

It is inevitable that this process will cause concern amongst parents and children, especially in regard to how grades are awarded.

As yet neither Ofqual nor the examination bodies that we use have contacted us with the detail of how grades are to be given and so we await their advice. We note that though "if a student does not believe the correct process has been followed in their case they will be able to appeal on that basis. In addition, if they do not feel their calculated grade reflects their performance, they will have the opportunity to sit an exam, as soon as is reasonably possible after schools and colleges open again. Students will also have the option to sit their exams in summer 2021."

These are difficult times and we ask for patience. We do appreciate that both children and parents are concerned about the outcome of this process but we ask that you refrain from contacting the school or its teachers until more information has been published.

All other students should complete the online work, which will be set by the staff and can be accessed as follows;

[www.satchelone](http://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.

Parents will receive a daily contact via SIMS in touch from their child's form tutor.

Students entitled to Free School Meals who did not collect their vouchers on Friday due to absence will have them posted today. We will await further government guidance to this entitlement in the forthcoming weeks.

We would like to send our most sincere thoughts and prayers to all of our parents and carers who are NHS workers, emergency workers and all those key workers who have been directed to still go into work. Our prayers this morning were for all of you, that you may be strengthened in body and soul for the forthcoming weeks.

Stay safe everyone.

God bless

Your St Gabriel's team.