

Saint Bede's Catholic High School

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Headteacher



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Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you and your families are keeping well. I would like to provide you with a brief update on developments at school.

Reporting on your child's progress

We are providing you with a brief summary report on the work completed by your child during the temporary closure of the school that you should receive during the next few days. The report will give you grades to indicate their effort and engagement with the tasks set together with their progress and learning in each subject. We recognise that these are difficult and anxious times for many of our pupils and families and have been made aware of a number of pupils who are facing difficult circumstances at the present time. Please do not hesitate to contact us if this is also the case for your son/daughter so that we can reflect this fairly and amend the grades awarded on their report where necessary.

I am impressed with the way our pupils have responded to the new challenges presented by online learning and for adapting so quickly in these difficult circumstances. I am also enormously grateful to you for the support and encouragement you provide them with in addition to balancing all the other demands you face.

In cases where pupils have experienced difficulty engaging with the work, I know that staff have already been in contact to suggest strategies to help them and this will continue over the weeks ahead. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or Year Leader if you need more support or guidance.

We are developing a more in-depth report for each subject that will indicate what pupils have learnt, where there are gaps in their knowledge or skills and how they can get support to plug those gaps. This may be specific advice from their teacher or guidance on helpful resources or video clips that will assist them.

Re-opening of the school for Year 10 pupils

Following the announcement by the Director of Public Health for Lancashire on Monday, I am pleased that we are now able to open more widely to Year 10 pupils from 22nd June to provide some face-to-face provision to supplement the online learning we are providing. This will commence during the week beginning 22nd June with staff holding individual meetings with pupils who may have had difficulties engaging with the online learning or require specific support. In the following week (commencing Monday, 29th June), we are providing sessions to provide support, guidance and encouragement for the pupils with appropriate pastoral input. Initially, teaching will focus on English and maths but there will also be input from other subjects. The pupils will be in small groups with no more than 25% of the year group on site on any one day to facilitate social distancing and meet government guidelines. We are looking forward to our Year 10 pupils returning; I am conscious of the impact that the school closure has been having on them and their families. Staff are looking forward to spending some time with them. Our existing provision for vulnerable children and the children of key workers from all year groups will continue.

Keeping safe at Saint Bede's

In anticipation of our Year 10 pupils returning, parents are being provided with information detailing the plans we have in place to look after our pupils, staff and the wider community. As well as measures in place to ensure social distancing takes place, there are significant changes to daily routines; classrooms have been reorganised; additional washbasins have been provided together with supplies of sanitiser and other products to minimise the transmission of the virus. A rigorous cleaning regime is in place. At the point when we advised that it is safe to increase the number of pupils in school, we will contact parents to outline the measures we will have put in place.

I am very grateful for the support and encouragement you are providing them with at home to ensure that your children are prepared as well as possible for their eventual return to school. I hope that you stay safe and well.

Yours faithfully,

Mr P Grice
Headteacher