

Saint Bede's Catholic High School

Mr P Grice MEd
Headteacher

e-mail contact@stbedeslytham.lancs.sch.uk
Website www.stbedeslytham.lancs.sch.uk



Talbot Road
Lytham St Annes
FY8 4JL

Telephone: 01253 737174

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Temporary closure of the school

In light of the Prime Minister's announcement this evening, we are required to quickly revise the plans regarding the staggered return to school for this term that I detailed in last week's email. I recognise and regret the great inconvenience this will create for our families as well as the significant disruption to learning for our pupils.

From **tomorrow (Tuesday, 5th January)**, the school will be closed to **all** pupils other than the small number who form our 'priority group' (vulnerable children and the children of NHS staff and critical workers). All other pupils will undertake remote learning via Firefly. We recognise that this can never match the experience of traditional class-based learning but we are committed to ensuring that we do all we can to ensure continuity of learning for all of our pupils.

Mrs Pearson is working closely with Subject Leaders to ensure that pupils receive high quality online lessons that use a variety of approaches to ensure an appropriate level of engagement and challenge as well as being closely linked to the programmes of study for each subject.

You will receive further information regarding arrangements for online learning from Mrs Pearson and we will, of course, update you on key developments over the coming days.

I know that you and your children will share our disappointment that GCSE exams will again be cancelled this summer and for the additional uncertainty this will cause. We will, of course, advise you on the DfE's plans for alternative arrangements and will support and encourage our Year 11 pupils to work with determination and commitment over the coming months.

These are uncertain and challenging times and we will always do our utmost to support and guide our pupils over the days and months ahead.

I hope you stay safe and well.

With kind regards,

P. Grice
Headteacher