4th May 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope that you and your family are all well. In these unprecedented times we are incredibly grateful for the support you have shown the school particularly with home learning. It has been lovely to receive messages from students and parents with the work your son/daughter has been doing at home. We are continuing to publish these on our website. The first priority is always to maintain your mental health during these times as you may be struggling with the considerable change that has happened. Please see below information and guidance if you would like it. The school would urge all students to keep up with their work at home. **However can I make it clear we do understand this may not be possible and if you cannot get it all done, please do not worry, we will catch up when we all return**. It’s Bank Holiday this Friday 8th May so all students and parents please have a day off from home learning. The work set for this week should be from today to Thursday.

**Mental Health & Wellbeing**

The coronavirus crisis is having a huge impact on young people. The loss of routine and exam cancellations are all factors that are causing stress and increased anxiety, as well as additional health concerns. For teenagers this can be a really challenging time and we are here to support you all. Please click on the link below for expert advice and guidance to get you through this challenging time. **There are quarantine activities now on the following page to help cope with the additional stress you may be feeling at the moment.**

<https://www.stgcc.co.uk/page/?title=Student+Help+and+Advice&pid=233>

**Safeguarding - Pupils**

[**staysafe@stgcc.co.uk**](mailto:staysafe@stgcc.co.uk)

This email address is available **only for pupils** if you are feeling concerned for your safety, wellbeing or anxiety which is affecting your ability to function as you normally would. This will be looked at daily. For parents, the email address will be emailed to all students via their school email accounts.

**Amendment to our Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy**

We just wanted to make you aware that due to the COVID 19 crisis we have added an amendment to our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy. This can be seen at:

[**https://www.stgcc.co.uk/page/?title=Policies&pid=40**](https://www.stgcc.co.uk/page/?title=Policies&pid=40)

As a gentle remind this means there is an expectation that children defined as vulnerable should be attending school unless otherwise agreed by the family with social workers.

**Tutor Calls – Week Beginning – Monday 11th May 2020**

During the week beginning Monday 11th May 2020 (Next Week) your son/daughter’s tutor will be in touch to see how they are all getting on and if there is anything they need. We would like to keep in touch with all our students at this incredibly challenging time.

**May Half Term – School is Open for Children of Key Workers and Vulnerable Pupils only - Registration**

In order to support our key worker families, the school is open from Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May 2020 from 8:40am till 3:00pm. Mr Ellerby and a member of the leadership team will be on site each day. A range of activities will be put on over the week but will be mainly supervision based rather than teaching. Mr Webb has kindly agreed to run his minibus service but the other two buses will not be running. Depending on how many apply and where you live will depend on if we can provide transport. But you would have had to have been signed up to school transport before the school entered lockdown to qualify.If you would like to register a place at school for this week **ONLY** please can you click on the link below and complete the **online form by Tuesday 19th May at 9am.** This is a separate offer to our current emergency service.

[**https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=8mJRt-Dz8kini2H46dDMEVTp4Kq856dFtQ8gs\_x24nRUNlBES0hFUVIwNFVOQjhJQVYzQUlaTUZDOS4u**](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=8mJRt-Dz8kini2H46dDMEVTp4Kq856dFtQ8gs_x24nRUNlBES0hFUVIwNFVOQjhJQVYzQUlaTUZDOS4u)

**Year 10 Mock Exams – Cancelled**

Due to the length of time the school has been closed it would not have been appropriate should the school be asked to open or partially open after the May half term for students to return to mock exams. In essence, it will be far more beneficial for the students to maximise all the remaining time we have left this year in the classroom. Therefore, should we return, protecting teaching time will be our priority. The only two exams to continue are:

* **GCSE Art – Monday 22nd & Tuesday 23rd June 2020**
* **French and Spanish Speaking Assessments - TBC**

**Home Learning – MS Teams - Years 7-10**

As a reminder, MS Teams is live for all classes in years 7-10 apart from CORE PE**.** Feedback on attendance has been hugely positive and the quality of work being produced has been outstanding. Thank you for your support, but can I mention that if you have not been able to attend please do not worry as we can catch up. Teachers are there sharing PowerPoints/documents and resources to help with home learning and the teaching. If there are any issues please let us know. Teachers will be in touch if we have noticed you are not online all week just to check you are ok. All work is now being set by email or through MS Teams. A summary of what is being set is on the website for each subject/year group for the week.

**New Appointment – College Lay Chaplain**

As you may or no may not be aware, I am delighted to confirm that Mr David Walford will be our new Lay Chaplain from September 2020. Mr Walford will be stepping down from his role as Deputy Head Teacher in order to take up this essential post. Our Catholic ethos and our faith is fundamental to everything we do in our school and we are excited to have our new Lay Chaplin in post from September.

**Sports Day – Monday 6th July 2020 - Cancelled**

Due to the advice against mass gatherings we have sadly cancelled Sports Day on Monday 6th July 2020. Should we have returned by this date it will now be a normal day. We will instead hold competitions/activities in these events within Physical Education lessons.

**Important Dates -**

* Year 11 Leavers Assembly – Friday 10th July 2020 3-4pm Arrive from 2:30pm
* Year 11 Prom – Friday 20th November 2020
* Year 7-10 Presentation Evening – Thursday 2nd July 2020 - 7pm
* Year 7 Parents Evening – Tuesday 23rd June 2020 – 5pm-7:30pm
* Year 6 Transition Day – Wednesday 1st July 2020
* Mentoring Day – Tuesday 14th July 2020

**Government Announcement – Due this week…**

We understand that the prime minister will be making an announcement this week regarding an exit plan from the current lockdown. This may include information regarding schools. Of course, we will act on the advice and guidance provided.

Finally, please stay safe, follow the guidance by the government, and look after each other. We will continue to keep in touch.

Yours faithfully,



Mr J Habberley

Head Teacher