20th March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The announcement strapline was “schools are closed” but are they? As I explained in my letter yesterday following the Government announcement, I am very sorry to say that **Saint George Catholic College will be closed from next Monday 23rd March 2020 until further notice due to the coronavirus outbreak**. However:

**Key Workers & Vulnerable Students – To register a place with Saint George**

The list of key workers is shown below. This was released by the Department for Education yesterday and it is an exhaustive list. Below that is a definition of vulnerable students. **To register a place at Saint George for your son or daughter please can you click on the link below and complete the online form by 9am on Monday 23rd March 2020. We can’t accept forms after this time due to the impact it would have on ensuring we have staffing in place to cover it.**

[**https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=8mJRt-Dz8kini2H46dDMEVTp4Kq856dFtQ8gs\_x24nRURFU1SFhUWlMxVlUyQUxHUUdaNEFGNDUzQS4u**](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=8mJRt-Dz8kini2H46dDMEVTp4Kq856dFtQ8gs_x24nRURFU1SFhUWlMxVlUyQUxHUUdaNEFGNDUzQS4u)

**Please can I make it clear only one parent needs to be a key worker to register this for your son/daughter. If you have siblings at the school please can you complete one form for each child. School will be open from 8:40am till 3:00pm Monday to Friday excluding** **weekends and school holidays.** I hope you understand that we need this information in order to plan appropriately and make sure we have the staff in place in a very short space of time!

I have been asked the question today by students “if my parents only work Tuesday and Wednesday can I attend school those days”. The answer is yes providing one of your parents is a key worker, but please complete the form by the deadline.

**Year 11 and Year 10:**

This may be the last day we see Year 11 pupils for a considerable amount of time. Therefore period 3 today we are meeting to take a year group photo, and period 5 we are going to have a celebration. **Please note we will be inviting Year 11 parents and pupils back to Saint George in the summer term for a formal leavers assembly when we will formally say goodbye, hand out hoodies if they have been ordered, and celebrate the end of this stage of your journey. Prom is also still on but our Year 11 leavers mass is sadly off as all masses have been cancelled for the summer term!** With regards exams update or the lack of exams and how students’ final grades will be published, we are waiting for guidance from the DfE which I believe is due out today. As soon as I have this I will pass it on.

**For Year 10** as I explained to the year group this morning, this is a challenging time and actually the realisation of who else is going to be directly impacted by this is very much Year 10. They will be missing a considerable amount of curriculum time and when they come back they are still expected to sit exams at the end of Year 11. That brings pressure so therefore I have urged Year 10 to keep a strong embedded routine, hold onto our values, show positive habits and work hard on what we have provided at home. Be aware of the term reversibility, the journey down is rapid, the climb up takes forever and is challenging. Do not stop working and learning! Keep in contact with your teachers and email your work in. We will mark it and give feedback. Year 10 mock exams are still scheduled for June and July.

**Key Worker List: Taken from the DfE Page:**

**Health and social care**

This includes but is not limited to doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK’s health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributers of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

**Education and childcare**

This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach.

**Key public services**

This includes those essential to the running of the justice system, religious staff, charities and workers delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, and journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting.

**Local and national government**

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the COVID-19 response or delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies.

**Food and other necessary goods**

This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines).

**Public safety and national security**

This includes police and support staff, Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic), fire and rescue service employees (including support staff), National Crime Agency staff, those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas.

**Transport**

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

**Utilities, communication and financial services**

This includes staff needed for essential financial services provision including banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage), information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the COVID-19 response, as well as key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications postal services and delivery, payments providers and waste disposal sectors.

**Vulnerable Students:**

Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those with education, health and care (EHC) plans. Children who have a social worker include children in need, children who have a child protection plan and those who are looked after by the local authority.

**A reminder about how to find Work for Pupils:**

In the immediate future, we need to ensure that this time away from each other is not wasted and the opportunity it brings is maximised. Therefore, work will be provided on our website from next Monday for all our pupils across all year groups. Students should log on to our website:

[www.stgcc.co.uk](http://www.stgcc.co.uk)

1. Click on Student Area
2. Click on your year group – for example Year 7 Homework & Study on the right-hand side.
3. Select the subject
4. Click on the work

If you are **unable to get internet access** at home and do not have a computer, please let your Progress Leader know in school by Friday 20th March or by phoning in on **02380 322603** and we will post work out to you. We do have the ability to email work to students and classes of students directly to your son/daughter’s email accounts. Individual teachers for subjects, particularly for Key Stage 4 classes, may well do this in addition to the work on the website so please check your school email account. To find your son/daughter’s email account they need to log on to office.com. Students then need to log on with their details. If they cannot please email ICT@stgcc.co.uk. As part of the students’ office 365 account they can download the office suite of programmes from the home page to a PC or tablet.

Please can I make it clear we expect the work to be completed; with so much not known about the future of this academic year it is important we carry on as much as we can as normal. **Everyone will come back to school at some point and the gap in your progress will only widen if you do nothing over these next few weeks**. **Use it as an advantage to catch up so you’re further ahead when we return.**

Finally, as I said yesterday may I thank you for your patience with such challenging circumstances. The triangle between the pupil, parent and school has now never been so important. Let’s make this work. I will be in touch, hopefully, to announce when the school can re-open soon.

Kind Regards,



Mr J Habberley

Head Teacher