



Salesian
School
Enlightening minds, uplifting hearts

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Dear All,

I am writing with our latest update following the government announcement today. As you will have heard, all schools in England will now be closed to the majority of children from the end of the school day on **Friday 20th March**.

Most of the content of this email applies to those children who will not be in school. However, the school will remain open for certain groups e.g. children of key workers and those with EHCPs. We are still waiting for clarification on who exactly this applies to and how we are going to make provision for them; there will be a further email to follow before the weekend with these details.

For the majority, we will now be enacting our plans for providing home learning from **Monday 23rd March**. Teachers and support staff have been working hard this week to put in place the best possible provision for the children whilst school is closed and we will be running through the details of this plan with students over the next two days at school and the overview of this is laid out for you below.

Before reading through the points, please know that we fully appreciate how challenging this is going to be for families. We understand that for many, juggling work, childcare and now facilitating education is going to be difficult, we know that you may well be dealing with sick or vulnerable relatives and that you might also be having serious worries about your livelihoods. We would however encourage you to do all you can to encourage and support your children to continue accessing education to the best of your and their ability; a sense of routine and purpose are going to be incredibly important over the coming weeks.

- Learning tasks will be set for all students via the Show My Homework (SMHW) platform. Families should already be familiar with this system as it is what we already use to set the vast majority of our homework.
- Each department will post work for each year group on SMHW on a weekly basis.
- Students will be expected to log in at the beginning of the week and work their way through the set tasks.
- We would encourage you, where possible to set a timetable for each day. This should include both learning and a chance for children to engage in exercise and other activities, as already mentioned, routine will be vital.
- As a rough guide, we wouldn't expect any child to be doing more than 5 hours of learning a day and appreciate that even this may not be practical in many cases.
- Expectations of what staff will be able to do also need to be realistic – many of them will be facing the same challenges as you in terms of childcare, sickness, computer access and supporting vulnerable family members. Whilst staff will be available to offer online support to students, they will not be able to mark or offer feedback on all the work completed.
- It should also be noted that none of our IT systems have been stress-tested for the amount of traffic that they are likely to encounter over the coming weeks. Please be patient but also assured that we have back-up plans in the unlikely case of a system failure.

Communication will be key over the coming weeks but please consider the following points:

- As the school will continue to run with a skeleton staff, the School Office, School Leaders, Learning Support Department and Safeguarding teams will continue to be contactable through the usual methods.



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- Staff will be available to interact with students who are learning at home via school-based email accounts (only) during normal working hours.
- Teaching staff will not however, have the capacity to respond to parent email as well as to the students and we would ask you to be considerate of that. Where there is an issue relating to learning please contact the appropriate Head of Year or a member of the Leadership Team and they will liaise with the relevant Head of Department to address the situation.

Other issues to consider:

- Although the government has announced that GCSE and A' Level exams will not now take place in May and June, students in Years 11 and 13 should be mindful that there will still need to be some mechanism for awarding them with qualifications and it is therefore really important that they continue working to the best of their ability through the set work as if the exams were still going to take place.
- We have now cancelled all school trips, events and sports fixtures for the duration of the school closure.
- If your child currently qualifies for free school meals we will be in touch with you separately about how we will make provision for this during the closure.

Needless to say, these are challenging times for us all but please be assured that we will do everything we can throughout this period to support you and your children to secure their ongoing education and well-being. We appreciate that you and your children may well be anxious about all of this and if this is causing you significant issues, please do get in touch. We will write again this week and on a regular basis throughout this time.

The children and you, their families are very much in our prayers here at Salesian, please do keep us in yours and don't forget to do anything you can to look out for the vulnerable members of our wider community.

God bless,

James Kibble
Executive Headteacher