



Salesian School

Enlightening minds, uplifting hearts

Headteacher: Mr J Kibble

Guildford Road, Chertsey, Surrey KT16 9LU

Tel: 01932 582520 Fax: 01932 582521

Email: info@salesian.surrey.sch.uk

www.salesian.surrey.sch.uk

Dear All,

I hope this email finds you well and coping with the challenges of remote working for you and home learning for the children whilst trying to keep your family safe and sane; well done if you're managing to juggle all this successfully!

Thank you to all those parents who have supported us to implement government advice and good sense this week by keeping their children at home, even when this has been really difficult to do. We have been left with just a handful of children at school which has meant that we have been able to strip staffing right back which enables us both to do our bit to enforce social distancing and to allow our staff to be at home with their families who need them. We really appreciate the efforts and sacrifices you have made to support us with this; it's exactly this sort of act of collective responsibility that will get us through this crisis.

Twitter users amongst you may have seen the advice that Don Bosco gave during the Cholera outbreak in Turin in 1854:

1. Follow the advice of the authorities and keep yourself healthy
2. If you feel ill, seek medical attention and stay away from others
3. Make time each day for reflection and prayer, bringing daily challenges to God

It is good to see that, as always, Don Bosco's advice remains timeless and it's a comfort to know that his good sense, resolve and faith saw the Salesian community through a similar (if not quite such large scale) challenge 166 years ago.

For those of you looking for support with following the advice today, please do keep referring back to the school website. This is constantly being updated with information and resources to see us through the school closure. The overview can be found on the [home learning](#) page and the theme of the week can be found on the [Chaplaincy](#) page. The latter will be updated with further resources to support prayer and reflection in the coming days.

The Heads of Year are all making efforts to communicate with their year groups via the various different technologies on offer; please ask your son or daughter to email their Head of Year if they haven't heard from them yet. We are working on putting the links for all these on to the home learning page too.

On the subject of technology, can I urge a bit of caution on the use of social media. As always, this can be a source of much needed contact, support, humour and inspiration but it can also be a vehicle for spreading fear, fake news and cruelty. We appreciate that the children will inevitably be subjected to a fair amount of screen time over the coming weeks both for learning and for recreation but this needs careful monitoring and should be well balanced with more traditional practical activities, exercise and fresh air (where available). I know that writing this is much easier than enforcing it but the efforts you make to keep this under control will pay off in the medium to long term.

With regards to learning, the advice is to stick to a consistent routine. I'm sure many will have started off enthusiastically yesterday but have already found themselves waning today. It would be far better to do a solid three hours of learning, a bit of exercise and some practical activity, five days a week for the duration of the closure rather than start off with packed days for a couple of weeks and then tail off to doing nothing after that.

A number of students, particularly from Years 11 and 13 have been in touch this week to ask about getting feedback on the work they are completing. As has already been said, we need to be realistic about how much of this teachers are going to be able to do whilst working remotely, supervising their own children's learning and possibly dealing with their own or family member's ill health. The advice is that students who should have been preparing for public exams this summer need to be thinking about what evidence they are going to submit to their teachers to ensure that they earn the best possible predicted grade in the summer. We would suggest that it would be far better for them to focus on completing all the work set rather than looking to make further improvements on what they have already submitted.



Salesian School

Enlightening minds, uplifting hearts

Headteacher: Mr J Kibble

Guildford Road, Chertsey, Surrey KT16 9LU

Tel: 01932 582520 Fax: 01932 582521

Email: info@salesian.surrey.sch.uk

www.salesian.surrey.sch.uk

Children need structure, routine and reassurance in times of uncertainty and we appreciate the efforts you are going to provide this. If however, you have any questions or concerns, please do get in touch with the appropriate member of staff who you will be able to contact via one of those listed on the [contacts](#) page.

I will be in touch again in the coming days but in the meantime, thank you for all you are doing and please know that you are not alone, we are here to support you in whatever way we can in the current circumstances.

All will be well.

God bless,

James Kibble
Executive Headteacher