



Salesian School

Enlightening minds, uplifting hearts

Headteacher: Mr J Kibble

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Dear All,

Can I start by apologising for the length of this email but there seems to be much to say before we break up for Easter, please bear with us.

It has been good to speak to so many of you in person this week and encouraging to know that the vast majority of families are in good health and generally bearing up despite the circumstances; your resilience is to be congratulated. Please remember in your prayers those families who are facing difficulties at this time, particularly the bereaved and those who are worried about sick relatives.

We are incredibly grateful to everyone for all the effort that has been put in so far to support the children with their learning at home which on the whole seems to be going well. We appreciate however, that the situation is far from ideal and given the scale of the upheaval, the short amount of time we had to plan the provision plus the variety of challenges that are being faced in different family homes, there is much to consider going forward, particularly now that we have had your feedback. Whilst we are still waiting for further information from the Department of Education about how the wider education system will be adapted, we thought it important to share with you before the end of this term how we are planning to adapt our provision going forward.

It is clear that in the vast majority of cases, there has been too much work set rather than too little. We have spoken to teachers about this and reinforced the guidelines for setting work next term. There is also an issue with the amount of work that has been set in comparison to the suggested timetables published on the Home Learning pages of the website. We are therefore reviewing the timetables for after Easter and these will be republished at the start of next term. We feel that following a set timetable will help families to structure the learning and give students much needed routine. We have set out the information below as it applies to different year groups and whilst the individual Heads of Year will be sharing this with the children, it would be good if you could reinforce this by discussing it with your son and daughter too.

Key Stage 3 - Years 7, 8 & 9

- The most important thing for our younger students, is that they maintain good working habits and routines.
- There will be less emphasis on them learning new material and more on them consolidating, deepening and applying their existing knowledge.
- More of the work set will be project based and they will only rarely be asked to submit work for marking, they should however continue to email their teachers if they have questions or are in need of support.
- Students in Key Stage 3 will be expected to follow a timetable which more closely resembles their school timetable after Easter but teachers have been asked to only set 30 minute chunks of work for each lesson scheduled. This should result in 3 to 4 hours learning a day.
- We would continue to recommend that some time is also dedicated to reading and physical exercise each day (this applies to students in all year groups)



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- It would help us to monitor whether or not they are accessing the work set if students log into *Show My Homework* rather than just access the work using the filter system.
- We have asked teachers to ensure that they are not bombarding parents of Key Stage 3 students with communication but if you feel that your son or daughter is not working hard enough, please contact their Head of Year who will be happy to speak to them.

Year 10

- As yet there is no clear guidance on how GCSE exams may be adapted in the summer of 2021 to take into account the fact that this cohort of students will have missed so much time from school.
- Whatever is finally decided on, we are confident that given the quality of teaching at Salesian and the great support that they get at home, our students will be better placed to cope with this than most going forward. We do however need to ensure that students “keep going” during this period.
- As with children in Key Stage 3, students in Year 10 will be expected to follow a timetable that more closely resembles their school schedule next term i.e. 6 x 50 minute periods but again we will ask teachers to set just 30 minutes worth of work for each period
- Year 10 students will in addition be asked to submit work for assessment on a regular basis via *Show My Homework*.

Year 11

- Ofqual, the exams regulator is due to make an announcement tomorrow afternoon which should tell us more about how grades are to be awarded in the summer. Updates can be found [here](#).
- In the meantime, the secondary schools in the Xavier Education Trust, like many others, have decided to finish GCSE courses two weeks in to next term when the exams were due to start.
- This means that students in Year 11 will not be set any further work to be completed for GCSE subjects after Friday 1st May. The only exception to this will be any coursework that exam boards may ask to be completed.
- The two weeks after Easter will be a last opportunity for those students who have not perhaps fully applied themselves over the course of their GCSEs, to prove to their teachers what they are capable of. However, for the vast majority who have been working hard throughout, this should NOT be seen as a period of final assessment; these students should feel confident that they are already in line to achieve the grades they deserve.
- From Monday 4th May we will be expecting students to embark on assignments that will be set to prepare them for the next stage of their studies. The majority of Year 11 students will be going on to study A' levels at Salesian College and there will be more information about how students will access this work after Easter.
- We are currently working on a separate programme of study for those planning to go on to other destinations.

Year 12

- Students in Year 12 are in a similar boat to those in Year 10.



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- Given that the vast majority are only studying 3 subjects we are not prescribing a specific timetable but we are advising that they should be spending a minimum of 8 hours studying each of their subjects per week. This should equate to roughly 5 hours study per day.
- Year 12 students will also be asked to submit work for assessment on a regular basis via *Show My Homework*.

Year 13

- Much of what has been said above for Year 11 also applies to students in Year 13
- We shall also be curtailing A' level studies from Friday 1st May
- From Monday 4th May, teachers will be setting relevant preparatory assignments for those intending to go on to higher education and there will be careers advice and support for those students who are going into the world of work or indeed who are still undecided about their next steps.
- Further information will follow after Easter.

We appreciate that families of students in Years 11 and 13 will be particularly anxious about how grades will be allocated and we will all have to wait to hear more about this. However, we would say that the process will be thorough, with both internal and external moderation being carried out – the responsibility for awarding grades will not merely be left to individual teachers. All of our students are also likely to benefit from the profile of previous years' results at Salesian. It is unlikely that any school will end up with vastly different results to those achieved in recent years and as we know, Salesian has a record of regularly achieving some of the best results in the country.

Staff are quickly getting to grips with the various technological solutions for supporting home learning and we hope that our provision will continue to improve as we go along. The school has just set up its own [YouTube](#) channel and we are in the process of planning resources to be uploaded next term, more information to follow. We are also looking at developing live streaming of some lessons, mainly for older students but we need to ensure that this can be done safely and within the parameters of our safeguarding policy. An updated policy that covers the period of the school closure can be found on the website and all parents should be aware of the advice for keeping children safe online which can be found [here](#).

Parents have continued to do an a great job of keeping children at home but we are aware that for some, particularly those working for the NHS in the frontline, this situation is becoming increasingly challenging. Those families that qualify and really have no other option after Easter should continue to arrange in-school childcare via attendance@salesian.surrey.sch.uk .

Our regular school newsletter will be published tomorrow and understandably we are now a bit short of recent news. Next term we are planning to set some *Salesian Challenges* for students and their families and we would encourage you to share the children's achievements with regards to this via info@salesian.surrey.sch.uk . We are hoping that this will generate plenty of material for our next newsletter!

This brings us to the end of term and the point when we would usually spend time reflecting with the



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students about the importance of Holy Week and then the upcoming joy of Easter - watch out for video messages about all this over the Easter holidays. As our parish priest said to us in an email this week, this has got to be the "Lentiest" Lent that has ever Lented! I think it's important that we all take a proper break this Easter, the staff won't be setting any home learning for any student and, with the exception of a couple of Easter themed messages, we will try to spare you any further email or other communication until next term. I hope this will afford all our families a proper opportunity to stop, to count our blessings, to reflect on what is really important and to focus on our relationships with one another and with God.

Thank you for your extraordinary efforts and support over recent weeks and for all you have done to ensure that we continue to be a community of faith, hope and love.

Peace be with you.

God bless,

James Kibble
Salesian School