



ST MARGARET WARD CATHOLIC ACADEMY



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Principal: Mr. D. McKenna B.Soc.Sc. MA. PGCE. NPQH.

01Z/StaffUpdate/DM/EP

Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Following on from the announcements made by the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Education, I am sure you will be aware by now that all schools have been instructed to close to nearly all students from the end of the day on **Friday 20th March** until further notice.

As advised by the government we will do all we can to stay open to the children of key workers (e.g. NHS staff, police, others in frontline services) and children with certain needs. Whilst the full definition of key worker is yet to be confirmed, if you think your child may fall into this category please contact the main office to advise.

As a member of the Newman Catholic Collegiate we have a shared strategy to respond to these instructions, please see the letter sent out earlier today from Ian Beardmore on behalf of the Collegiate for further details about what this is at this stage.

All other children will need to stay at home from Monday, so we ask that you **do not** send your child into school from Monday onwards. At present, schools are closed until further notice and this is likely to be for a sustained period of time.

Our teachers, and particularly subject leaders, have been preparing for this eventuality and so have populated files of work for all students online. These can be accessed by following this link;

<https://smwca.sharepoint.com/sites/HomeStudy>

Further links and instructions are available on the school website homepage;

<https://stmargaretward.co.uk/>

The work currently online will cover the next two weeks and it will be regularly updated for as long as we need to do this. Please ensure your children keep up with this work throughout the period of closure so they are not disadvantaged on their return.

If your child usually receives Free School Meals, we will be working within government guidelines and will inform you once we know what arrangements have been made. For those students eligible for Free School Meals who have self-isolated we will contact you with further information.

If you require this information in a different format, please contact the school.



It was also announced that all exams and assessments would **not** now go ahead in May and June. We await further details but for all our Year 11 and 13 students in particular, we recognise the hard work and effort that has gone into their studies and the government have assured us that they will work with the exam's regulator Ofqual to ensure that all students will receive a grade and this will be done as fairly and equitably as possible.

Our students should remember that the exams are only a measure of what they have learnt, the learning itself has not gone and will still open doors for them in the future. As there remains uncertainty about how these grades will be allocated I would suggest that it is advisable for our students to continue to complete the work being set online to ensure they are prepared for every eventuality.

I appreciate your continued patience with this ever-changing situation and recognise the impact this will have on all members of our school community.

Thank you for your continued support, please continue to remember all the vulnerable and the ill at this time and keep the staff here and those that work for all the frontline services in your thoughts and prayers.

Yours sincerely,

Mr D McKenna
Principal

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