



# ST MARGARET WARD CATHOLIC ACADEMY



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

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04A/REMOTELEARNING/EXAMINATIONS/PJ/LB

12<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

May I start this letter by thanking you for all that you are doing in support of your child's learning at this very stressful time. We fully recognise that this is far from ideal and we would like nothing more than all students to be back in school with us. We are working together to ensure that during the national lockdown, your child continues to be supported, both pastorally and academically, whilst not in school through a range of measures that we have put into place.

## Particular Information for Year 11 and 13 Examinations

I know that there will be a great deal of anxiety and worry with our Year 11 and Year 13 students and parents in particular with the announcement that examinations in subjects will be cancelled. It is really important to share with you that the qualifications themselves are not cancelled. In reality, all that has happened is that the way that the courses will be assessed will be different. It is important to share that until arrangements have been made and confirmed by the Government and Ofqual, we fully expect all of our students to carry on working as hard as they can across all of the subjects that they study.

## Student Engagement in Remote Learning

Can I also take this opportunity to thank all of the students in our community across St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy. They are, yet again, rising to the challenges and truly showing that they are incredibly resilient young people who are developing our mantra of excellence being a habit.

As we have now been using MS Teams for a little while, it seems a good time to once again share the clear expectations that we have as a community for students and their remote learning. This was originally shared with you last March and again in September and can be found here:

<https://stmargaretward.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/PARENT-AND-STUDENT-GUIDE-UPDATE-14.9.pdf>

This document clearly shares our expectations as:

- All students should:
  - Be contactable during required times – although we will consider that pupils may not always be in front of a device the entire time.
  - Complete work to the deadline set by teachers.
  - Seek help if they need it, from their usual class teachers.
  - Alert teachers if they're not able to complete work.
  - Use proper online conduct, such as using appropriate language in messages and in emails to all staff.
  - Students are expected to refer to staff in the usual manner as if they were in school.

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



As with all new situations for students and staff, there may be some small teething problems and some students may take this opportunity to make the wrong choices and decisions in their online behaviours. Please may I ask that you speak to your child about our expectations as a school community so that we can all continue to work in an exceptionally positive manner.

If there is an issue connected with remote learning then we will always contact you, discuss and hopefully resolve the issue with your child and you by working together.

Finally, the document also goes on to say the following statement: 'That we will look into ways in which we can support the remote learning of students by them coming into school in full uniform and working from a computer station, whilst being fully supervised by a member of staff.' This situation would be fully discussed and confirmed with parents and would be used as a last resort measure to ensure that any student does not fall behind.

Can I thank you again for your continued support during these times and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to initially contact your child's Head of Year.

As Mr McKenna mentioned in his letter last week, please continue to converse with us and if you do have any questions with regards to access to laptops and other digital devices please contact us and if we can help, we will.

Yours faithfully



Paul Johnson  
Vice Principal

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