



St Mary's Catholic School

Benton Park Road, Newcastle upon Tyne. NE7 7PE
where everyone can succeed



Tel: 0191 2153260 Fax: 0191 2153279

mail@st-marys.newcastle.sch.uk

www.stmarysnewcastle.co.uk

Dear Parents and Carers

18th March 2020

Second Update on Corona Virus (COVID-19)

Further to my letter of 9th March, the school continues to follow all government and Public Health England advice for schools, particularly in relation to hygiene. Students and staff are doing an excellent job in challenging circumstances.

Thanks to parents for informing us about their child's absence due to Covid-19 symptoms or family symptoms. Requests for work to be sent home are being factored into our overall preparations to maintain learning in the event of a potential closure. These preparations will be finalised this week, so work should be available from next week, if children are absent but the school remains open.

Staff absence is rising daily due to the need to self-isolate. We are managing to remain open at the minute. In relation to maintaining learning during any extended mandatory closure, we are finalising the following:-

- **Arrangements for students with no access to the internet or a computer at home.**
- **Arrangements for students to access on-line lessons provided by teachers on an on-going basis.**
- **Arrangements for general learning resources available on the website, if IT glitches prevent access to the online lessons**

Instructions will be issued to students in due course, as will advice to you, about what we would reasonably expect from students having to work remotely from their classmates and teachers.

In relation to exam classes, we are awaiting guidance from the government about likely scenarios. We will share that as soon as we have it. In the meantime, the above arrangements will prioritise years 11 and 13.

Among many other things we are having to consider, we are working with the LA to ensure access to meals for children on Free School Meals during a closure and we will share information with families as soon as it is known.

Thank you for your patience with all of the above.

Year 9 Parents' Evening on 23rd March and other after school events.

In light of the current situation, the above Parents' Evening is cancelled, as are general after school events until further notice. Anything that is still going ahead will be communicated to you.

Appointment of a new Headteacher from September 2020

I am delighted to inform you that this week, Governors have appointed Miss Patterson as the new Headteacher, to take over from me in September 2020. I am sure she will do just as great a job as Head as she has done as Deputy.

Yours faithfully

J Foster
Headteacher

