



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

2nd April 2020

We continue to remember in our thoughts and prayers at school, anyone suffering as a result of the COVID-19 virus. I hope you are all keeping safe and well and managing to cope during this period of lockdown. The school's two week Easter holidays begin next Monday 6th April and continue until Monday 20th April, so I thought that before we 'break up', the following update would be useful.

- School will remain open during the two holiday weeks (including the two Bank Holidays) for the children of critical workers and any vulnerable children who cannot be safely cared for at home.
- Thanks for your cooperation as we began home learning provision last week. I think all queries about logging in/passwords have been resolved. Please email/phone the school if not. Admin support will be reduced during the holidays but there will be admin staff in school every other day to answer calls and take messages.
- **There will be no expectation on children to do any home learning during the two week holiday period and teachers will not be uploading lessons during these two weeks. Everyone should take a break.**
- We will continue to develop the range and style of home learning provision after Easter, including developing ways to provide feedback to students on some of their work and providing on-going advice about students' well-being while having to study at home.
- After Easter, we will be developing 'bridging' work in all Sixth Form subjects, for current year 11s who intend to return to Sixth Form, so that they can continue with their learning in readiness for post-16 study in the future.
- After Easter, we will be liaising with Y11s not intending to return to Sixth Form, to support them too.
- After Easter, we will be advising Y13s on how best to prepare for their university studies, as well as providing on-going support to those moving into apprenticeships or the world of work.
- After Easter, we will communicate with year 11/year 13 students about how GCSE/A levels will be awarded. As yet, there is no official information about this from either the government or the exams' regulator OFQUAL.

Finally, I was sent the following message written by Pope Francis which I thought I would share, as it is full of hope.

Tonight, before falling asleep, think about when we'll return to the street, when we hug again, when all the shopping together will seem like a party. Let's think about when the coffees will return to the bars, the small talk, the photos close to each other. We think about when it will be all a memory and normality will seem an unexpected and beautiful gift. We will love everything that has so far seemed futile to us. Every second will be precious. Swims at the sea, the sun until late, sunsets, toasts, laughter. We will go back to laughing together. Strength and courage. See you soon.

I hope everyone has a Happy Easter and that everyone keeps safe and well.

Best wishes.

J Foster - Headteacher