

St Joseph's Catholic Academy

A Leading Edge Technology & Applied Learning College

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Acting Headteacher: Mr P Mitchell

Chair of Governors: Mrs G Kilgour



13 March 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

I wish to inform you of our contingency plan should we be directed by the Government to close as part of a national response to the Covid-19 outbreak. The latest guidance from Public Health England can be found on our website.

We have worked very closely with our students since they entered St Joseph's and understand that many of them are very concerned about the impact a closure could have on them at this crucial point in their school life. Our entire staff is determined that we will ensure every pupil is supported so close to their final examinations.

Should we be instructed to close, each student has a set of revision resources to complete at home. They should continue to use their revision plan to inform their daily revision schedule. In addition, there are a wealth of resources available in a new area of our school website, which will be frequently updated by their teachers. This can be found by following 'School Life' and then 'Home Study Work'. They also have many additional paper-based revision resources that they can use at home.

We are aware that for some families school is a source of a guaranteed meal for their child. We would like to direct families experiencing difficulties to community foodbank Hebburn Helps, Coleridge Square off Wordsworth Avenue NE31 1QD, 0191 489 9707. Our school is very proud of our close connection with Hebburn Helps and know they offer our community support.

We are also aware that a number of our students rely on support from school for their mental health wellbeing. We would like to remind families of Kooth which is a free, confidential online mental health service for children and young people that offers online counselling. Please follow the link to find out more: www.kooth.com

This is an unusual set of potential circumstances, but I do wish to assure all of our students and families that regardless of what may happen we have a robust plan in place to ensure the impact on our students is minimised and to remember this disruption would be reflected as a national picture.

This plan will only be successful though if students understand a closure is absolutely not a holiday and that they must be available at the agreed time for their dedicated phone call. Our staff are prepared to go above and beyond, but students must meet our expectations to complete work set and engage with us. If this happens, I am confident that by working in partnership between home and school our young people can come out of this period of turbulence and still get the fantastic results they are deserving of this summer.

If you have any queries about this information please contact school in the usual manner.

Yours faithfully

Mr P Mitchell

Acting Headteacher