

30 March 2020

Updates linked to School Closures

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you and your families are all well. I am writing to you with some further important information regarding the impact of the Coronavirus on our schools.

Learning from home

As we start the second week of 'learning from home', I do hope that your children found the activities in week one stimulating and useful. Distance learning is a challenge as your sons and daughters will not have the access to class teachers and subject specialists that they normally would have in school. Our staff are working hard to devise appropriate learning tasks and ensure that you and your children have access to them. I would ask that parents are understanding of teachers who are working in very difficult situations to provide the best they can for the children.

Please do encourage your children to complete the work set and feedback to the school (schools have chosen different methods for doing this), where appropriate.

Spirituality

The Trust's chaplaincy team are preparing resources, videos clips and activities to support our pupils and families spiritually during this time. They are available via:

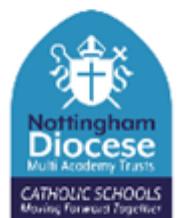
1. The Be Inspirational site: <https://www.beinspirational.co.uk/> and clicking the 'prayer at home' tab
2. The Be Inspirational YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/TheBecketSchool> to access a daily video of a gospel reading.
3. Nottingham Diocesan Youth Service (NDCYS) website: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCP-eQ-INxAhDYRhy8KdP8Q>
- 4.

Mental Health and well-being

As a Trust we are very keen to support the emotional well-being of all pupils and staff. We recognise that periods of self-isolation or even staying at home with reduced levels of exercise and face to face interaction with friends could have a negative impact on young people. I have attached with this update some guidance on encouraging emotional well-being in the current climate. If you are concerned about your son/daughter's state of mind and feel the suggested activities have not improved the situation, please contact the school or your GP.

GCSE and A-Level examination results

We continue to wait to hear from the Department for Education and Ofqual about the details on how final grades will be calculated. Once we have more information, we will share this with you.



Admissions Appeals

I know that some families may have lodged admissions appeals regarding places for children moving into reception or Year 7 in September. All appeals are currently on hold and if you have lodged an appeal, you should be contacted by the clerk, where one has been appointed or the school to confirm this.

We are currently awaiting further information from the Department for Education about the next steps.

Educational visits abroad

Over the next few weeks and months we will be working to recover money from our insurers for any trips abroad, which have been cancelled due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Where possible we should wait for the tour company to cancel the visit so as not to invalidate the insurance. We are currently processing those trips which were planned for April 2020. Over the next few weeks we will be making refunds for such visits that have already been cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Our finance team have a large number of refunds to make, so we ask you to bear with us during this time.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your great understanding and patience during this challenging time. We pray every day for all in our community, that they may stay safe and well and that anyone who is ill makes a speedy recovery. This is the prayer we have been using:

Merciful God,
Come to the help of your people.
Be our shelter in this time of peril and strengthen the bonds of our community.
Bring healing to all who suffer the ravages of illness and disease
and assist those whose skill and art can put an end to this affliction.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Our Lady, Help of the Sick...**pray for us.**

Yours sincerely



James McGeachie
CEO, Our Lady of Lourdes CMAT

HT NAME
Headteacher, [**SCHOOL NAME**]

