

ARCHBISHOP ILSLEY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

'Justus et Tenax Propositi' - Just and Firm of Purpose

Victoria Road, Acocks Green, Birmingham, B27 7XY

Tel: 0121 706 4200
Email: enquiry@ilsley.bham.sch.uk
Website: www.ilsley.bham.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Miss Helen Burrows



A St. Teresa of Calcutta
Multi Academy Company
School

COVID-19 UPDATE

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you prior to the official Easter holiday break to summarise relevant information regarding your children and school.

I doubt any of us could have predicted this situation and even now, things are constantly changing. As a Headteacher I do not receive any information from the government before you do and we are constantly adapting to try and make life as manageable as possible for your families and for the staff in the school community.

May I say a huge 'thank you' for your understanding and support over the last 3 weeks. It has been anything but business as usual and we are all still coming to terms with what the 'new normal' is. Headteachers across the country are dealing with challenges none of us have faced before in this time of national and international crisis. I am blessed to have had such fantastic support from staff and families and am very grateful.

As parents and carers I know you will have many questions and in this letter I will try and answer what I can, based on the current situation.

When will school be open again?

In short, I don't know. When schools were closed by the government, we were told that they were closing until further notice.

My advice is to assume that school will remain closed after the Easter holiday.

Over Easter, we are open for the children of key workers and invited students only on the following days:

Monday 6th April

Tuesday 7th April

Wednesday 8th April

Wednesday 15th April

Thursday 16th April

Friday 17th April



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Please note, the government advice remains the same. Keep your child at home wherever possible. If you are a key worker and do need to access provision as a last resort, please contact the school so that we can ensure we have adequate staffing. If you are a key worker you will need to provide proof of your occupation.

What should my child be doing in terms of school work?

I want to be absolutely clear that families must do what is best for them. We are living through difficult and unusual times and how you choose to organise your child's day is entirely your decision. There is enough stress and worry in our society without you feeling that you have to suddenly become teachers and deliver hours and hours of home schooling every day. Teaching staff are preparing and uploading resources onto Google Classrooms so work is available. Whilst I would strongly encourage all children to keep up with what work is being set, you should manage this as best you can.

Students in Y10 and Y12 should use this time to revise what they have been taught so far as well as keeping up with the work that has been set.

But education does not have to be limited to just the work that is on Google Classrooms. With children having more time at home, this is also the ideal opportunity to teach your child some useful life skills such as cooking, using a washing machine and maintaining a home!

There is lots of information regarding work and activities on our Covid-19 page on the school website.

Free School Meals

Thank you for your patience with this issue. It took some time for the vouchers to be sent to us and the administration team have been working hard to get these distributed. If you have any issues downloading your voucher or do not have internet access please contact the school and we will assist you.

What about Y11 and Y13 exams?

All external examinations have been cancelled but students will be issued with grades for their subjects.



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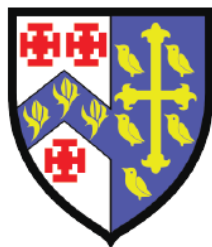
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At the time of writing this letter we are still waiting for details on how grades will be calculated for Y11 and Y13 students. An announcement is expected today (Friday 3rd April) and I will update you early next week if we do get further details. We do know that students will be issued with grades, as they would have had they sat their exams, but how these grades will be calculated is yet to be shared with schools.

Staying safe

The current government advice is very clear. Stay at home. I understand that having had your children at home for a number of weeks without them having their usual freedom of movement could be a challenge, but there is a reason why we are being asked to stay at home – to protect our NHS and to save lives.

Could I also strongly advise all parents to ensure that they are monitoring their child's internet use to check that they are safe online.

The DfE has signposted the following links to support parents and carers to help keep their children safe online. These links are as follows:

- [Thinkyouknow](#) (advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online)
- [Internet matters](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Parent info](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [LGfL](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Net-aware](#) (support for parents and carers from the NSPCC)

Communication

The main form of communication through school closure will be via the school website, which is updated regularly.

I would also recommend watching the daily briefing from the government each day as that is when new information is released.



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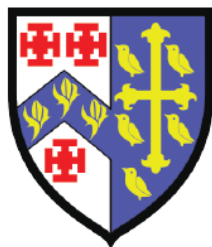
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Your support over the last few weeks has been incredible and I want to thank you for your understanding and patience. Having worked in the profession for over 20 years I have never known anything like this and I hope that we never have to live through times like these again.

But we must have hope and we must believe that life will get back to normal as soon as possible. As ever, you all remain in our thoughts and prayers and we look forward to welcoming your children back to school as soon as possible.

Please take care of yourselves and each other

God Bless

Miss H Burrows
Headteacher



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