



ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE



19th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Coronavirus update – school closure to most pupils

Following on from my last communication, I am now writing to let you know that we have been instructed to close the school to almost all children after this Friday until further notice.

As advised by the government, we will do all we can to stay open for the children of key workers (e.g. NHS staff, police, others in frontline services) and children with certain needs. We are waiting for the government to publish more information on what this means, but it would help us in the meantime if you could let us know if you think your child may fall into one of these categories by responding to the survey emailed out.

All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday onwards. Please note that this is a national closure – as you may have heard in the news – so while it is a challenging situation, we are not alone. We will re-open fully as soon as we can and will let you know when this is by an update on our website.

On Monday, Day 1 of closure, teachers may not have set any specific learning tasks. Students should complete any outstanding homework tasks, review recent or earlier learning, read and take exercise. From Day 2, students should access work on Show My Homework, where work will be set each day for students' timetabled lessons. Your child will be expected to login to Show My Homework to see what work has been set. Work booklets will be available for collection from the front office for any student who does not have access to the internet or technology from home.

The Prime Minister announced that public examinations would not take place in May and June, as scheduled. Although he gave a commitment to ensuring that students would be awarded with the qualifications they deserve, there has not yet been any further detail as to how this will happen. At this stage, despite this unsettling development, it is important that students in Year 11 and Year 13 continue to focus on their studies.

If your child usually receives free school meals we will also be in touch with more information about how we will continue to provide this, with support from a scheme from the government.

We understand that this latest news will have an impact on you and your family and it is far from ideal, but we will continue to keep in touch with any updates as the situation develops. If you want to get in touch to share any concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us via the contact details on our website.

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This is a time when we will all need to work together to ensure that our families and children are well supported and cared for. I am sure that if we all pull together we can get through this outbreak safely and with as minimum disruption as possible in the circumstances.

The Department for Education has launched a new coronavirus helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education and children's social care. Staff, parents/carers and pupils can contact the helpline by:

Phone: 0800 046 8687 **Email:** DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

I would like to thank all parents/carers for their understanding and support during this time.

Yours sincerely,

Mr G Mantillas
Deputy Headteacher

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