



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

20th April 2020

I hope this update finds everybody safe and well. Following the two weeks' Easter break, home learning can begin again today. Teachers will once again be uploading lessons for all of their classes in line with students' timetables. I am grateful to staff for this on-going work in difficult circumstances. As the school made clear from the outset, extended home learning is far from ideal but we have to try to make the best of it. We also appreciate that not all students will have the same home learning conditions and, indeed, that at certain times, circumstances in each family and home may change during the current crisis and this may impact on students' ability to work effectively at home.

It is very important that students and parents try not to worry about home learning. Everyone should simply try to do their best. It will only be once we have returned to school properly that we will be fully able to assess everyone's progress. I am sure that at that time, our excellent staff will plug any gaps and ensure that all students forge ahead with their learning. Remember that this affects all students across the country in similar ways.

As home learning begins again, I recommend that all parents and carers have a re-read of our INITIAL GUIDANCE TO PARENTS AND STUDENTS WHILE STUDYING FROM HOME (further copy attached). This highlights, among other things, the need to take regular breaks from screens and from learning just as students do when in school, the general challenges of home learning, the recommendation of aiming for a structured approach to each day and a reminder of where lessons and other resources can be found on our website. It is good that some additional resources are being rolled out nationally on TV and online but we recommend our students prioritise the specific lessons set by their teachers each week.

As mentioned before Easter, we will now begin refining our initial support for home learning and keep you informed about any changes in the weeks ahead.

Finally, school continues to be open each day but only for the children of critical workers or any children deemed vulnerable who cannot be safely looked after at home.

Best wishes.

J Foster - Headteacher