



St Mary's Catholic School

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where everyone can succeed



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Dear Parents and Carers

Update: Year 13 return to school- Monday 11th January 2021

Happy New Year to you and your families and I hope you all had a lovely Christmas.

You may have seen in the media on Wednesday evening that due to the significant rise in COVID-19 rates across the country, the government have now decided that Year 13 students cannot return to school this week as previously planned. The government have decided that to protect the health and safety of all, Year 13 students will instead complete **remote learning at home this week** (this will be Tuesday to Friday for St Mary's students due to our planned INSET day tomorrow) and they will **return to school on Monday 11th January 2021**. With the exception of Year 13 and Year 11, other year groups will now return from Monday 18th January 2021.

Just to note that the details outlined above are the government's current plan but as you know, this plan has been updated very regularly over the last couple of weeks and therefore, if anything further should change, we will be in touch.

All students will be able to access high quality remote learning at home to support their Year 13 studies. Lesson resources will be uploaded, lesson by lesson, onto Teams by the end of each lesson. Students will also be able to get in touch with their teachers via Teams to ask questions about their work and/or to ask for any further support needed. As you know, we trialed live lessons for Year 13 in many subjects before Christmas and we will be expanding this to all subjects throughout this half-term, therefore students can expect many of their lessons to be live lessons. There is also a large bank of KS5 learning resources and revision materials for all subjects on the school website, to further complement the above learning.

The vocational exams that are scheduled for this week and next week for a small number of our Year 13 students will go ahead as planned. Students already have all of the materials and resources needed to revise and prepare fully for these exams and their class teachers will get in touch with them tomorrow via Teams, to offer further support and guidance. These students are also able to contact their teachers via Teams at any point if they have any questions or need further guidance. All of the lessons leading up to these exams will also be live lessons, as far as possible, to support these students fully. Therefore, they will be able to have as much contact with their teachers from home, as they would in school. Students will come into school for their examinations only. We hope this offers reassurance to parents and students.

If you have any questions about remote learning or the above vocational exams, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Mr McKeating, Assistant Headteacher.

We know that some parents and students will be concerned about students not being in school, particularly during such an important examination year, but please be assured that we will continue to support all of our Year 13 students fully, to ensure that they achieve their full potential this year, despite the disruption that Year 13 students and other students have faced across the country this year.

Further details re the plan for rapid COVID-19 testing, will be shared with parents and carers in due course, once further government guidance and resources have been received and once the substantial planning that is needed has taken place.

Apologies for the short notice about these changes to the start of school next week but, as I hope you will understand, this was very much out of our control.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Patterson
Headteacher