



Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School

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Headteacher: Mr C Billings

Thursday 19 March 2020

Dear parent/ carer

School closures

As I am sure you are aware, the Prime Minister announced yesterday that schools across the United Kingdom were to partially close from Friday 20 March at 3.05pm as a result of the current Covid-19 pandemic.

This is an unprecedented act and raises a wealth of concerns and questions which are still being answered.

All Summer examinations have been cancelled. This means that if you have a child in Year 11 or 13 they will **not** be sitting examinations this Summer. I have spoken to all of these students today. Naturally many students feel bewildered and anxious as a result of this decision. The Department of Education has not provided any further information on how children will progress on their chosen pathways at this time. However, we have been assured that this decision will not hinder children in their next steps, either in education or training. I have assured all of our Year 11 students that a place will be available for them in our sixth form if they wish to continue their education here at Bishop Ullathorne. I will provide more information on this situation as it becomes available. Meanwhile, the school will remain open to some students as identified by the Department of Education. This means that, if your child falls into one of the following categories, we will be providing provision for them in school:

- Children of key workers (those working in the NHS, social care, emergency services or delivery drivers)
- Students who receive free school meals
- Students who have an Education, Health Care Plan (EHCP)

All students who wish to access this provision should be in school at 8.40am on Monday 23 March. At this stage, we are still expecting student attending Bishop Ullathorne School to be in full school uniform. A programme of activities and education, will be provided for the children eligible to be in school. Free school meals will continue to be provided to those children who are eligible to receive them.

There is no guidance currently on how long the school will be partially closed. However, we are being asked to prepare for the current situation to continue until September 2020. To support your child in their education we have established a dedicated area on our website for guidance on this situation. In here your child will find a booklet of activities and instructions for a range of subjects. This booklet provides work for children in Year 7 to 10. In addition staff, will be using our online platforms, Office 365 and Show My Homework, to set additional work for children across the school, including those in Year 12. I would strongly encourage any child who is working from home to establish a routine of work across a range of subjects every day. I have included an example of what this might look like in the online pack.



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These are certainly unusual and extraordinary times. We will remain flexible in our approach so that we can respond to the changing needs of our local community. If you have any concerns related to this situation, please use the dedicated Covid-19 contact page on our website. I will remain in contact with parents, carers and children via e-mail and text message over the coming weeks. However, for now, please let me take this opportunity to wish you the best of health during this difficult time and thank you for your patience and understanding.

God bless.



Mr Billings
Headteacher



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