

ST. ANNE'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS



Act justly, love tenderly, walk humbly with your God

2 April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Covid-19 Update

When I wrote to you on the 17th March the plan was to reopen our school to all students on the 22nd April. Unfortunately, that is not going to be possible. The school will remain physically closed until further notice. However, via our Continuing to Learn Programme, we are very much open. This programme will remain a key source of learning and method of engagement for our students.

We have also produced an Easter Activities Pack – this is aimed at encouraging students to do something fun and different with their time. These activities aim to develop a student's softer, yet equally important, skill set e.g. patience, resilience, team working while our normal online timetable is suspended for the Easter break.

We expect clarification about this year's qualification grading for Year 11 and Year 13 any day. Mrs Sanders will write to those students this impacts once we have been briefed. Each year group will also receive a bespoke letter from a senior member of staff to keep you up to date.

Next week we will be sending out the first edition of *The Review*. This is a way of celebrating and highlighting the many things achieved by our learning family over the term.

What do we do when we don't know what to do?

My guess is that almost everyone has asked themselves a version of that question of late. Whether the Government advice is unclear, the internet is down, the video-conference app is unfamiliar, the parent or older sibling is hogging the laptop, the work is too hard or too easy, or the whole thing has simply sent us into a kind of paralysis...we are experiencing the same.

We at some point will or have hit a wall and cannot see a way over, under, around or through it. All of us will struggle at some point; but what we are also all doing is learning: we are confronting a totally new situation and trying to find ways forward. That is what learning is – we expect children to do it all day long, and now we are all having to do the same. They are seeing us adults flail around a bit, which is scary for everyone, but perhaps good for us too. It is said that babies often survive earthquakes better than adults...in the same way, we may find that our children can teach us a thing or two about learning and flourishing in this mad situation.

We continue to be called upon to take extraordinary measures at this extraordinary time. You are all been asked to cope with so much. These words said by the author Helen Keller feel quite apt at present "*It is OK to have butterflies in our stomach. Just get them to fly in formation.*" Well done parents and carers you have and are doing a wonderful job and are successfully formation-flying on a daily basis.

Please know that you are not alone if you are struggling. Whatever your frustrations with online learning, be assured that they are being reported across all schools and across the world. Your child is not being uniquely disadvantaged, and neither are you – even though it may feel that way.

We suggest the following:

- A routine is helpful for children (and indeed for all of us): some will want to follow a similar timetable to school, I suspect most will want a bit more flexibility...whatever works for you is ok.

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- If you can't manage any of the work just now – whether for technological, emotional, family or other reasons, that is ok. There is time – all too much of it, probably.
- For as long as we are all still allowed to be outside, frequent breaks and fresh air are helpful.
- Check in with your children when you can – get them to tell you what they've learned, perhaps teach it to you. There's lots of evidence that this conversation will do more for their learning than anything else.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the many ways you can contact the school whilst we are closed:

- Call the main school number and leave a message. Messages will be picked up and passed on to the relevant Department.
- Leave a message on Groupcall – messages are picked up on a daily basis and passed on to the relevant Department.
- Leave a message on SHARP – please remember to leave a name so the message can be acted upon. This will not be possible if anonymous.
- Email the school – admin@st-annes.enfield.sch.uk.

Thank you for the many kind messages of thanks and support you have sent, and I wish you, and all whom you love, good health in body, mind and spirit. Please continue to keep all our community in your prayers, as you are in mine.

Remember; stay safe, stay home, save lives.

Yours sincerely



Emma Loveland
Headteacher