



Our Lady's Catholic High School



A National Teaching School

Friday, 3 April 2020



Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the end of our second week of online learning, I wanted to thank you for all you are doing to support your children at home. The challenges of supporting children in such learning are considerable and I know that many of you are liaising with other families about good strategies to create variety in the day and keep the motivation levels strong.

The feedback I have received so far has been very positive and parents have expressed genuine gratitude for the quantity, quality and organisation of the work that teachers have provided. Teachers are not expecting pupils to submit work for every lesson. There is an important self-discipline to develop in this time out of school and every piece of work will not be individually tracked and accounted for. Some children will need your support and encouragement to keep trying their best while others will naturally be more self-motivated. Many of you are setting clear boundaries, dividing the day into chunks of time with exercise, meals or 'down time' in-between. Typically, the families who are doing this tend to be experiencing fewer difficulties as children need structure and many of them lack the maturity to be allowed too much freedom. That said, allowing your child opportunity to occasionally influence parts of the structure of their day can become a valuable reward when targets have been met. We do recommend that you restrict their school work to the hours of the school day.

Not every one of the learning platforms in use by teachers allows the teacher to directly track the completion of work of your child. A very useful strategy can be to ask your child to create and keep a diary list of the time and date spent on each piece of work completed for each teacher. Should they have been completing some work that cannot be tracked directly by their teacher, they can send a copy of the relevant diary section to show what they have done. Teachers will be expecting pupils to submit certain specific pieces of work on which they will provide feedback. The frequency of this should be similar to the marking of homework when school is open. They will make clear to which pieces of work this applies.

Exercise, healthy eating and controlling the amount of time spent on computer games and social media, while challenging to control, remain ever important. Please contact your child's Learning Manager if you are struggling or need some guidance and support. We cannot send people to your house, but we really do want to remain in contact and provide what help we can during these days of confinement and school closure. Please note that we will NOT be setting school work for over the Easter holidays as this would be contrary to typical practice and pupils do need a break from their school work, as do their teachers from setting work and feeding back on it.

At the time of writing (Thursday 2 April, 5.00pm) schools still have not heard from government about how the GCSE grades are to be awarded but we will inform you as soon as this arrives. Finally, school remains closed after the Easter break and until further government announcements, pupils are to continue to work at home following the holidays.

With my prayers and very best wishes to all of our families over the holy period of Easter.

Mr N Ranson
Headteacher