



Our Lady's Catholic High School



A National Teaching School

Friday, 22 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Keeping in Touch Week

I really must commend families for their commitment to the structured tasks to support learning that our teachers are providing each day. The previous week we tried to make contact with every family in our school to ask individually about the welfare of our children. There remain some families where we have not been able to make such contact. **If you know that you have not either spoken directly to your child's Form Tutor or Learning Manager or have not had direct email communication to share concerns, I very much urge you to make contact with school.** The ongoing welfare of our pupils is of great concern to us and while we may not be able to solve all problems, talking them through is a good idea and we shall try to help where we can.

Online Safety

Over the past couple of years, we have covered the topic of online safety thoroughly both with our pupils and with you as parents through our parents evening sessions. With the current situation requiring our young people to spend an increased amount of time online in order to complete their schoolwork we thought it would be a good time to draw your attention to some of the key things to put in place at home in order to keep your child safe. Please see the attached document for really useful information which we are encouraging you all to read through as a family.

Art is where the home is

Artists, crafts persons and creative types have created free online resources for families on <https://firstsite.uk/art-is-where-the-home-is-programme/> They are suitable for both children and adults too. So, if you have been inspired by Grayson Perry's Art club or want to learn something new then please look at what they have to offer. There are two aspects to the web site:

Art is where the home is Activity Packs.

- These have been created by leading British artists including Grayson Perry, Antony Gormley, Sarah Lucas, Gillian Wearing, Idris Khan, Lucy Gunning, Richard Wentworth, Cornelia Parker, Jeremy Deller, Gee Vaucher, Vanley Burke, Mark Wallinger and more. 'Art is where the home is' will give you ideas about how to get creative at home. Anyone can have a go – there are no specialist materials required, plus it is completely FREE to download!

Create at Home.

- This is a programme of regularly updated activities to inspire everyone at home to get making and doing! There will be new and exciting, step-by-step activities each week with everything from finger knitting and break dancing, to stick figure animation! Anyone can have a go, with no specialist materials required, and no experience necessary.

Possible School Opening

You will have heard speculation about secondary schools opening for 'some meaningful contact with Y10 pupils only; not before Monday, 1 June'. The suggestion is that this could amount to, 'some time spent with teachers before the summer break'.

I met with governors last night and we do NOT believe that the current situation in terms of guidance on achievable safety is acceptable. Nothing will be placed before the safety of our pupils, our staff and all of their families. Hence school will NOT be opening for any Y10 pupils straight after the Half Term break. We are preparing plans for a phased opening to ONLY Y10 pupils later in the term. Such opening is highly likely to have very stringent conditions associated with social distancing of ALL people present both in school and on the way to and from school. We will keep you informed of all developments.

Very best wishes to you all

Nigel Ranson
Headteacher