



4 April 2020

Dear Students, Parents, Carers and Staff,

A weekly update for you all again.

As the new temporary normal takes shape, we have noticed a good uptake from students on our eSchools platform, with many of the Sixth Form lessons utilising our Microsoft Teams. The most important thing at the moment is that families are well, looking after each other; prioritising our health and well-being. Give a thought to balance in everyone's lives. Having said this, the amount of work being done is amazing – well done everybody! We will look to refine our offer after Easter. Again, thank you for the great messages of support from everybody – much appreciated!

Over Easter, staff will be setting homework as they would do in a normal holiday, not lesson to lesson. It has been a challenging time for us all, with staff going into school on rotation supporting key worker parents and vulnerable students, so I would ask for some space and time for them to have quality time away from their laptops – the same is true for students! We are open for the same small number of students over Easter, but the school will be closed on Good Friday and the Bank Holiday Monday.

With respect to Year 11 and Year 13, I have added a link at the bottom of this message from Ofqual which came to schools today. This seeks to offer reassurance to everyone about how grades will be calculated. Following the Easter break, the school will be in communication with you regarding the process of school assessed grades. I am sure parents and carers of Year 11 and 13 students will appreciate that we cannot respond to individual queries at the moment and therefore ask for your patience until after the Easter break.

We have been holding many virtual meetings to keep the school driving forward. Today we held the 'Our Voice' meeting. Our Voice are elected representatives across the school and Sixth Form as a committee for student voice. They were really impressed with the resources the school have laid on, but equally with the spiritual support offered by email and Instagram. Keeping everyone in touch has been very important to them.

The theme of sacrifice during this Lent has not rang out this strongly for many years. I would encourage you to find virtual acts of worship during Holy Week – I have included an excellent document, "Holy Week at Home" to help. The lockdown is making us realise how important the people around us matter: this epitomises Easter. Recognising the value of each other and taking no day for granted. On behalf of everyone at school, and possibly more this year than ever, have a peaceful, blessed, and Holy Easter.



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In the words of Pope Francis: ' We proclaim the resurrection of Christ when his light illuminates the dark moments of our existence'

Matt Baker & the Leadership Team

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