

19 March 2020

St John Fisher

Catholic High School



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Dear Parents/Carers

Headteacher: Kate Pereira BA (HONS), N.P.Q.H.

I am sure you will have watched the announcements made by the Prime Minister and the Education Secretary last night which stated that all exams have been cancelled. This means there will not be any GCSEs or A 'Levels or any other public exams this summer.

For Year 11 and year 13 students, this means that they will not sit any exams at all. The Government have said that students will not be disadvantaged by this and that there will be a plan for them to gain their qualifications. We do not have any details from the Government yet about what that plan will be and so we can only guess at this stage.

We know that students in Years 11 and 13 are feeling lost and bewildered and experiencing a range of emotions at the moment and those that we have seen this morning in school are receiving support and guidance from our staff. We held assemblies this morning for Years 11 and 13 to explain things and now students are in lessons completing coursework, in case it is needed for evidence. As soon as we have any further information we will share it with you. We spoke to students this morning about the importance of having a new focus now and to look towards the next stage of their lives and education. We will be encouraging students to research and read about the subjects they will take next year at College, University or in the Sixth Form. I also spoke to students about how education is not just about exams and that the point of their education so far has been to gain knowledge, skills and understanding and to develop as a human being and that this in no way takes away their achievements or abilities.

One point that was clear last night is that all schools will close at the end of the day on Friday 20th March (tomorrow) until further notice. There were a great deal of messages in the announcements last night that schools are trying to interpret so we can all best meet the needs of our students. We anticipate that we will be given more advice over the next two days.

Staff continue to work hard preparing Home Learning packs for all of our students in all year groups which will be sent out in the post tomorrow. The packs will contain guidance about how to study at home and how to log on to e-mail and other online platforms available to them. I know, as parents you will support your children to continue learning as much as possible but we are all realistic about how potentially difficult this may be. The main form of communication for students will be via student e-mail and the post. You may have access to other resources yourself which will be helpful and other online platforms.

We will keep you updated, as we know more. We wish you and your family well. These are very challenging times for everyone

Best wishes

Mrs K Pereira

Headteacher.



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