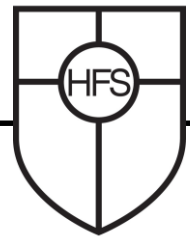


The Holy Family



Catholic School

05 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

First of all, may I take this opportunity to wish you a Happy New Year. I hope this letter finds you and your family well.

Following last night's lockdown announcement, I am writing to update you with the arrangements for the running of the school throughout the lockdown period as follows:

- All students in all Year Groups with the exception of those students specifically identified by the government as those who should attend, should work from home until further notice.
- **If your child(ren) has been specifically identified to continue attending school, you will have received a separate message from the school.**
- If you have critical worker status, you are entitled to send your child(ren) into school. If you are not already doing so and would like to send your child(ren) in, please either e-mail the school using office@holyfamilyschool.uk or MyEd giving your child(ren)'s name(s), form(s) and details of your critical worker status. **Please let us have this information prior to you sending your children to school. We will reply to your message within one working day of receiving it to agree your child(ren)'s attendance.**
- All students attending school should wear full school uniform.
- The current plans state that the lockdown restrictions will not be reviewed by the Government until February half-term at the earliest.

All students working from home will be set work using Classcharts. Students have been shown how to log on to Classcharts. If there any problems with accessing Classcharts, please contact the school using ictsupport@holyfamilyschool.uk for assistance.

If your child(ren) does not have access to ICT to enable them to access their work on Classcharts and they have not been identified as needing to attend school, please contact us either using office@holyfamilyschool.uk or MyEd and we will arrange for a member of staff to call you to discuss how we can support you with this.

If your child is in receipt of Free School Meals, please contact Mrs Azad at the school on 01535 210212 and she will give you details of the arrangements we have in place to provide these for your child(ren) whilst at home.

It was stated during last night's announcement that summer exams, 'will not go ahead as planned'. This is not, at this stage, confirmation that exams have or will be cancelled. The BTEC examinations due to take this month are, as far as we aware, continuing as planned. If your child(ren) is due to sit any of these exams then they must attend school as advised. If your child(ren) is due to sit any of these exams and is unsure of the arrangements, please contact Mrs Ridehalgh at the school.

We are waiting for further information from the DfE and Ofqual regarding the format summer assessments will take and as soon as we have this, I will share it with you. In the meantime, it is extremely important that all students expecting to sit formal exams at any point this academic year continue to engage fully with all learning set by their teachers. This is to ensure that they will be as prepared as possible should exams go ahead in some form, and to ensure that as a school, we have as much evidence as possible of their progress should we be asked to provide Centre Assessed Grades as we were last summer.

We were due to run mock examinations this term for students sitting external exams this summer but at the moment we are unsure whether this will be possible or beneficial. We will keep the situation under review and update the students and yourselves as soon as any confirmed information is published.

For students planning to apply for university places for Autumn 2021 the UCAS deadline remains the 15th January 2021. Once a student has received all of their offers from the five universities they have applied to, they have until the 10th June 2021 to decide on one firm choice and one insurance choice. Any student who misses the UCAS deadline in January can apply through UCAS Extra from the 11th February 2021.

Student Finance does not open until March 2021 but the application can be completed as late as September for an October 2021 course. Further details relating to Student Finance will be provided in due course.

If students have any queries regarding UCAS, they should contact Mr Riley at the school who will be able to advise them.

Finally, as always, please ensure students do not attend school if they are exhibiting any of the three key symptoms of Covid-19:

- * High temperature
- * Persistent new cough
- * Loss of taste or smell

This also applies if any member of the household is displaying these symptoms. In this case please follow the latest government guidance on testing and isolation and inform the school accordingly.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school should you need clarification of or support with any of the above information.

Once again, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support during this difficult and challenging time.

Yours sincerely



S Mather
Interim Headteacher