



# All Saints' Catholic Voluntary Academy

Head Teacher: C Cuomo

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**“We shall serve.”**

**Mark 10:45** - *“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

12<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

As we become more established with our live lessons via Teams, we wanted to write to you about our expectations in terms of student engagement. The staff at All Saints' are working tirelessly to ensure that all children are able to access a live lesson for the majority of their timetable. A high number of our learners have been present in all live lessons and we thank you for your support with this. They have been a credit to the school.

It is important that students receive feedback about the quality of their work during the lockdown period. To this end, we will continue to run the exam weeks outlined on the school calendar and your child will receive feedback on their performance. The upcoming exam weeks are as follows:

Year 8 exam period – January 18<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>

Year 9 exam period – February 1<sup>st</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>

Year 11 mocks – Will commence on 22<sup>nd</sup> February for 2 weeks (we will communicate with you in due course on the format for these).

During these periods, teachers will be setting exams for students to complete during lessons and will need the exam responses to be sent back to the teacher for assessment. Teachers will be using platforms such as Microsoft Forms and the 'Assignment' function on Microsoft Teams to conduct the assessments. Rest assured, that students will be fully trained on how to complete and send the exams back to be marked.

Your child will continue to have homework set, as they would in a normal school week. Students can expect to have feedback on particular pieces of work and this may take a number of forms:

- Through verbal feedback from the teacher, allowing students to improve their work with green pen.
- Knowledge tests through platforms like Microsoft Forms, where students get a test score at the end.
- Extended writing assessments, where students submit work to the teacher via e-mail or the Assignments function on Teams, to allow the teacher to provide feedback through written comments or whole class feedback.
- Retrieval quizzes and activities in lesson to test student knowledge and understanding from previous content covered.

This is not an extensive list of the means by which your child can expect feedback on their performance by teachers. Our staff members are working hard to ensure that lessons are challenging and purposeful for students in this period and that thought is going into how students' knowledge, understanding and performance will be assessed.

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*"The school is a cohesive and inclusive community characterised by pupils who are highly respectful of each other and very polite. The overall achievement of pupils has remained strong and pupils make good progress overall."*

However, there does remain a small minority of students who are not attending remote lessons punctually. If this is not due to a technological or health related issue the school has been made aware of previously, non-attendance or poor punctuality to live lessons will be followed up with parents, potentially as a child protection issue for repeated cases, as students are expected to engage fully with the provision during this lockdown period. If your child is ill or cannot attend a lesson for a valid reason, please let school know as soon as possible using the normal channels of communication.

Please also remember that Teams can also be accessed via a smartphone or device, plus on the Xbox or PlayStation.

Our graduated response to students not accessing lessons is as follows:

- Student absence from a lesson will be recorded on SIMS as a warning (0 SIMS points)
- If that student misses another lesson in that subject area, this will be a second offence (1 point)
- If that student misses lessons in that subject area repeatedly, this will be logged as a repeat offence (2 points)

Form Tutors, Year Progress Leaders and Subject Teachers will be contacting home when required to discuss attendance issues and encourage full engagement in lessons. However, if this does not resolve the issue, we will issue a series of letters to inform parents of our concerns and this could trigger a home visit from school to conduct a safe and well-being check.

It is important that both parents and students are aware of the long term impact of not attending the lessons. Firstly, this could negatively affect future data collections and progress updates. This could have repercussions for sets as we move into next academic year. Secondly, when we do return to school, our rewards offer will be reinstated and engagement with lessons and work set will factor in the decisions about who accesses rewards. Finally, for specific year groups, this will impact access to our Leaver's Package and prom (Year 10 and 11), there could be a review of 6th Form Offer (Year 11) and could limit access to option choices (Year 8).

It is important to state that the vast majority of students are engaged, working hard and making good progress in their lessons. This is a reminder that as we move through the forthcoming weeks, we want to ensure that your child receives the most meaningful experience possible.

In the meantime, if you need any help or support during these challenging times with any aspect of school life, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,



N. Kilday

Assistant Headteacher



C. Hutchinson

Assistant Headteacher