

# St Robert of Newminster Catholic School and Sixth Form College



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**Head Teacher:** Mr. D. Juric  
**Chair of Governors:** Mr. G. Moorhouse

5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

In light of yesterday evening's announcement about the current lockdown, I need to update you on certain arrangements. I will try to be as concise as possible for now, but may need to contact you again later in the week to give further detail.

## Vulnerable/Critical Worker Children

The school is currently closed to all students other than those who meet the Vulnerable/Critical Worker criteria. The majority of students should therefore access their online learning from home, as outlined in my previous letters. Parents and carers whose children will be attending school this week and next under either of the two categories above have already provided us with details of their children. If this changes, it is very important you inform us please. We will contact parents again during next week to refresh lists ready for w/c 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> January.

## Vocational Examinations in January/February

The scheduled public vocational examinations scheduled to start this week, and to run into February, will still go ahead as planned. Students entered for these examinations should still attend them. However, rather than be in all day, as previously instructed, they should now arrive 15 minutes before the start time of their exam and leave immediately after it (unless they are already attending school as vulnerable/critical worker children).

## Summer Examinations

You will have heard the government mention the summer exams. **It is very important that Year 11 and Year 13 students realise that, however it may be reported, the government has not said that assessment of students has been cancelled.** They have stated that not all exams will go ahead as planned, and that they will put in place alternative arrangements. It remains very likely that there will still be some form of examination or assessment in place to allow for grading of students to happen. It is therefore vital that all Year 11 and Year 13 students fully engage with their online learning and revision, not just for its own sake, but because they must put themselves in the best position possible for whatever system of assessment is arrived at in the end. Please do not think that your study from this point onwards does not matter. It remains very, very important. We realise you will have many questions about what system will be put in place. Unfortunately, at this stage schools have no more information than the general public, and so we cannot give you any further detail. As soon as we have more definite news that we can share with you, we will do so. In the meantime, please continue your study and revision for all your courses to ensure you are well placed for the summer.



### COVID Testing in School


This had been scheduled to start with Year 11 and Year 13 students next week. This will now not be happening in this way. We still expect testing to commence at some point and will keep you updated on developments.

### Free School Meals

We will continue with a provision for Free School Meals to those eligible during lockdown. We anticipate this continuing to be the e-voucher system and we send out confirmation as soon as possible.

I wish you all the very best for the coming weeks and, as I have already said, we will keep you updated as regularly as we can on further developments.

Yours faithfully

  
**Mr D Juric**  
**Head Teacher**