



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

9th February 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are well, and that your children/our students are too. I should like to begin this letter by giving a huge congratulations to students on how well they have coped with accessing their work remotely this half term. This way of working has been such a change for students, but in the overwhelming number of cases they have engaged incredibly well with their learning and are to be commended for the efforts they have made. In a small number of cases engagement may have not been quite as we would have wanted to see it. I do urge all students to ensure that next half term they make sure they are full participants in all lessons and complete all work necessary. As we have said previously, if there are issues making online learning difficult for you, be they technological or otherwise, please do let the school know. I would also like to thank you, the parents and carers, for all you have done to ensure your children have been accessing their work. Thank you too for the many positive comments we have received from you regarding the learning and support being provided.

Well done also to those students who have been attending school this half term under the vulnerable or critical worker criteria. We will assume that the requirements for the attendance of these students for the first two weeks back after half term (w/c 22nd February and 1st March) will be the same as this week, **unless we are informed otherwise by the end of Thursday 11th February**. Please email school@str.bwcet.com to inform us of any changes. If your child is not currently attending school under one of these two categories (please refer to my previous letters for the definition of vulnerable children and children of critical workers), but you wish them to begin to do so, w/c 22nd February and/or w/c 1st March, again please email school@str.bwcet.com to inform us of the exact details of your request, **by the end of Thursday 11th February**.

For any communications related to the issue above, please put **Vulnerable Provision** or **Critical Worker** in the title box of your email. As stated previously, school start and finish times, uniform, routines, etc. will all be exactly the same as normal for those students in school. Students are in school all day. School buses will be running.

Understandably, like us, you will be awaiting keenly any government announcements regarding the possible re-opening of schools in part or in full, hopefully at some point next half term. At this stage, we have no more information than you on the matter, but as soon as we do know more, and have had time to formulate any relevant plans, we shall share them with you. The same is true for announcements regarding Year 11 and Year 13 grading this summer, about which we hope to hear more very soon.



I take this opportunity to remind you of the message I have already previously sent that if you or your children are struggling this term, please do contact us. You should contact the school via your child's Head of House or Head of Year, or Mr McHale/Mrs Bowen. I also signpost again some useful sites which can provide a whole range of well-being and mental health support:

www.kooth.com - a free, confidential, online mental health service for children and young people.

<https://www.camhs-resources.co.uk/> - a site full of helpful resources to help support mental health and well-being.

www.childline.org.uk - Tel: 0800 1111 (calls are free from landlines and mobiles in the UK).

www.samaritans.org - Tel: 116 123 (free confidential helpline) email: jo@samaritans.org

www.sunderlandmind.co.uk - Tel: 0191 5657218 Text: 07984595542 email: admin@sunderlandmind.co.uk

www.washingtonmind.org.uk - Tel: 0191 4178043 Text: 07507330995 email: info@washingtonmind.org.uk

I should like to wish all students a restful half term holiday next week. Although activities may be restricted, I hope they manage to get a break and enjoy their week. They have deserved their week off. Parents and carers of students who qualify for Free School Meals should be aware that the school will continue to process FSM vouchers over half term. I wish you all the best for next week and look forward to recommencing our ongoing work with students next half term, remotely, in person, or both.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Juric', written in a cursive style.

Mr D Juric
Head Teacher