



All Hallows RC High School

Specialising in Business, Enterprise & Sports

150 Eccles Old Road, Salford M6 8AA Telephone: 0161 921 1900

E-mail: allhallows@salford.gov.uk

Website: www.allhallowssalford.com

Headteacher: Mrs A. Cavanagh

Sunday 5th April 2020

Dear Parent/guardian,

Ordinarily, I would be writing an end of term letter at this time, but term-time and holiday time seem to have morphed into one continuous time. I have a number of updates and reassurances that I wish to give in this letter.

Firstly, I want to say 'well done' to you all for the wonderful job you have been doing in the last few weeks in such extraordinary circumstances. You will have all approached this situation differently - but whatever your approach has been, the choices you have made will have been in the best interests of your family. In addition to caring for and loving your children, reassuring them, entertaining them, providing for them and keeping them safe (perhaps with a few disagreements if they were wanting to go out), many of you have also taken on the role of home tutor. For some, the role has involved keeping your child to an organised routine and ensuring that they complete the work that their teachers have been setting. For others, you have been baking, gardening, singing, reading and exploring other areas of interest, or, indeed, just making it through each day safe and well and simply being with each other. For most, it will have been somewhere in between. Whatever your approach has been, we know you have been doing your best, and we commend you for that.

Obviously, it is important for each child to continue their education the best they can in the circumstances, (and where possible following work set by teachers), but what this means will vary for each child. When we do come back to school, the children will have had different experiences and will be at different points in their learning - please do not be too concerned about this. It is the teachers' responsibility to respond to that, and they will.

'Easter Holidays'

Pupils and teachers need to recharge their batteries over the Easter holidays, and therefore there will be no requirement for teachers to set or respond to work over this two week period, or for pupils to complete it, (though people may choose to).

The school will be open Tuesday and Wednesday this week (7th and 8th April), and Tuesday - Friday next week, in order to provide childcare for the children of key workers where there is no alternative childcare available. A number of teachers and other school staff will also be in during these days, checking emails and ensuring that appropriate, supportive contact is maintained with a number of our pupils and families.

Getting in touch

If you are having any difficulties at any time, either with your child or more generally, be it emotional, mental health, financial, or etc. and/or you would like our advice or support about anything, please do not hesitate to get in touch. You can ring school between 8:30 - 3pm on the days we are open, or email on studentservices@allhallowsrc.co.uk and your email will be forwarded to the appropriate person for a timely response.

Your contact details

If you have changed your phone number or email address, it is absolutely vital that you let us know. Most of our communication is through these channels. It is also more efficient and cheaper for school if we can send you letters etc. via email. If you believe that we may not have the correct contact details for you, please email studentservices@allhallowsrc.co.uk to let us know (or phone school if you do not have an active email address). Thank you.

Keeping connected

We are staying in contact with individual pupils and families in a number of ways - directly with your child via google classroom, emails and phone calls to parents/guardians and letters. If you would like more contact, please let us know.

Year 11

Ofqual have published their outline of how GCSE grades for Y11 students will be established and awarded. They wrote a letter for Y11 students to read, and we sent that letter via text to parents of Y11 on Friday (the day it was released). This can be found at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877830/Letter_to_students_-_Summer_2020_grading.pdf. The guiding principle in this process, and the reassurance being given, is that students will receive the grades that they deserve, that is, the grades that they would have most likely achieved had they sat the actual exams in the summer. Also, that their certificates of grades awarded will be indistinguishable from those issued in other years.

Food vouchers

The government have now introduced a scheme whereby food vouchers (actually, 'eGift cards' for supermarkets) worth £15 per week per child in receipt of free school meals can be given to parents. This takes a little administration because not all of our parents have active email addresses (that school know of), and this is the most effective way of distributing these eGift cards. We sent a questionnaire out last Wednesday, by text, to all parent/guardians of children in receipt of free school meals, so that we could establish the best way to get these eGift cards to parents. Many people responded promptly but as of today, some have still not responded. If you did not receive this text, but believe that you should have done, please ring or email school asap via the email address included above (as we will need to update your contact details). These eGift cards should be with you in the next few days.

These eGift cards are in addition to the vouchers that we have already sent out as a school, covering the weeks leading up to and through Easter.

Change in circumstances? You may now be entitled to free school meals.

In the last few weeks we have, not surprisingly, noticed a rise in the number of families claiming free school meals. If you believe that your child may be entitled to free school meals, please claim! We do not want any families to be struggling or going hungry. Further details of who

might be eligible, and how claims can be made are given at the end of this letter - but if you give us some basic details, we can quickly and easily check your eligibility for you.

1. Email studentservices@allhallowsrc.co.uk
2. Put 'Eligible for Free School Meals Query' as your email subject
3. Tell us:-

Child surname	Child first name	Your surname	Your Date of birth	Your national insurance number

1. Each of your school age children's Surname and First name
2. Your surname, your date of birth, and your National Insurance (N.I.) number.

We will then check your eligibility for you with the local authority.

Useful link

The educational publishers Pearson have provided free online access to all textbooks, visit this page <https://www.pearson.com/uk/learners/secondary-students-and-parents.html> and click the e-book button on the right hand side.

Policy update

Our Children Protection and Safeguarding policy has been updated with an addendum which has been written in response to the current situation of school closure. This can be found on our website.

Keeping safe

Please reinforce to your children the vital importance of remaining at home; of avoiding meeting up with friends (and we know how hard this is); of maintaining at least two metres of 'social distance between themselves and others when out, and of washing their hands regularly. Their heroic job just now is to ensure that they do not inadvertently pass the virus on to other, more vulnerable people.

If you, your child or a family member is struggling with illness, please let us know, and we will help in whatever way we can.

Easter and the All Hallows' family

You may have already noticed that throughout Lent we have been tweeting a prayer of the day. Our Chaplain is also preparing messages and prayers for Holy Week. Please follow us on twitter @AllHallowsRC.

As you know, Easter is the most important event in the Catholic calendar. Churches are closed in the current climate, but you will be able to catch online services via social media. Jesus died so that our sins would be forgiven, and that we could have eternal life.

Please remember that we continue to aim to provide the very best care and education for our pupils and their families at this time. We may be separated at the moment, but we are still one united All Hallows' family. United in welcome, care and welfare, and prayer.

I hope you have an enjoyable and holy Easter.

Stay safe and well.

God bless you all,



A Cavanagh
Head Teacher

Appendix: Free School Meal Eligibility

The following information has been provided by the local authority.

Parents DO NOT need to re-apply for free school meals, if they were not paying for school meals before schools closed for social isolation in March.

Parents may need to apply if they haven't previously applied and are now eligible.

Who qualifies?

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related employment and support allowance
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Universal Credit (not working)
- Universal Credit (working and net earnings are less than £7,400 per year)*
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross

- income of no more than £16,190
- Where a parent is entitled to Working Tax Credit Run-on, paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- If you get support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

(* Please note: To be entitled to claim free school meals (FSM) when working and claiming Universal Credit, the earnings for one period should be no more than £616.67, earnings for the last two periods should be no more than £1,233.34, and the earnings for the last three periods should be no more than £1,850.00.

Therefore if your earnings for one, two or three periods are below the upper earnings limits stated, you would be entitled to claim FSM. You will need to upload screen shots of each page of the relevant payment statement(s), especially the page(s) showing any deductions that are being made, with your online application, so we can then determine if you are entitled to claim free school meals. However, if your earnings for one period exceed £616.67, or if your earnings for two periods exceed £1,233.34, or if your earnings for three periods exceed £1,850.00, then you would not qualify to claim FSM.)

For applications: <https://www.salford.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/free-school-meals/>