



# All Hallows RC High School

Specialising in Business, Enterprise & Sports

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Headteacher: Mrs A. Cavanagh

08 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

What a difference a week makes! I hope that you and your children are in good health and are happy; and that you are adjusting well to the news about the national lockdown, and the fact that there is no school for most pupils again.

I want to reassure you that the core activity of school is still going ahead, despite most pupils not being physically allowed in the building at the moment. We are still teaching and providing pastoral support and safeguarding for all pupils.

## Arrangements for remote learning

All educators are in a very different situation than we were in during the last lockdown. Teachers have learnt a great deal and are very much more skilled at delivering effective, engaging and relevant lessons and learning tasks. Additionally, we have endeavoured to ensure that all pupils have access to devices and to the internet. Consequently, the learning experiences offered to pupils, and what is expected from pupils is very different this time. We expect to teach all pupils during the next five weeks or more, to a similar standard to that they would receive in school. In return, pupils are expected to be online and to 'attend' lessons every day from 8.40am – 3.10pm. (There may be occasions where children decide to complete their non-live lesson tasks during a different time slot during their day.) The structure of each day is: form time (8.40), period 1 and period 2, break (10.40am – 11am), period 3 and period 4, lunch (12.40 – 1.30pm), period 5 and period 6.

Staff are working incredibly hard to provide the very best quality of education they can online.

Please remember that as well as this, they are also preparing lessons, reviewing work, setting google classroom activities and undertaking remote pastoral work, amongst other activities.

### Live lessons

We have successfully been running live lessons for the last four days for Y11 and the pupils and teachers have been doing brilliantly. Over 90% of Y11 pupils have been 'attending' their lessons. We believe pupils are receiving an excellent educational provision and are able to make real progress; understanding and practicing new learning. Pupils are enjoying both the interaction with their teachers and having some instant feedback. From Monday all pupils in every year group will be expected to be online and following their normal (new) timetables from 8.40 – 3.10pm. They will receive a combination of live lessons and google classroom activities. Please note that non-attendance will be monitored and acted upon because we do not want any pupils to miss out on this real learning – attendance to learning is compulsory.

Additionally, please read and bring your child/ren's attention to the attachment 'Student protocols and expectations' for online lessons.

### Y10 and Y11

From Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January at least 75% of all lessons will be 'live' or have 'live elements' with teachers. Quality work will be set for all other lessons, which will further extend pupils' learning and/or consolidate learning. Pupils will continue with the curriculum that the teachers had planned for in-school lessons – so there will be new topics and new learning.

### Y7 - Y9

From Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January the provision will be as above, but with at least 50% of all lessons will be 'live' or have 'live elements' with their teachers.

We have attached copies of each year group's timetable and have highlighted those lessons that are 'live' for your easy reference. **Registers will be taken during these lessons.**

## Form time

There will be a form time for all pupils at 8.40am each day. This will allow form tutors to register attendance and check that pupils are ready for the day. Additionally pupils can thus stay in contact with their form tutors and receive pastoral support as required.

We are committed to ensuring that all pupils have equal opportunity to access learning, and therefore that they have devices to use, and also access to the internet.

Devices – We have loaned out a huge number of devices, prioritising disadvantaged children and Y11, and now have only a few left. As an excellent alternative, google classroom and live lessons can be accessed via the Xbox and Playstation with a keyboard (we can loan out keyboards where required). Please see the attached document for instructions.

Internet/Data – We have a small number of dongles with free data that can be loaned out if required. Also, please see the attachment regarding free mobile data.

If access to devices or data remains an issue, please contact [studentservices@allhallowsrc.co.uk](mailto:studentservices@allhallowsrc.co.uk).

## Provision for children of key workers and vulnerable pupils

This will continue as normal throughout lockdown with all pupils expected onsite by 8.30am in full uniform. So far, the pupils in school have adjusted extremely well to their new circumstances, and have been completing work set by their teachers including logging on to live lessons where appropriate.

## Y11 – Summer Exams and GCSEs

On Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> January, the Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson, announced that:-

*“Although exams are the fairest way we have of assessing what a student knows, the impact of this pandemic now means that it is not possible to have these exams this year. I can confirm that GCSEs and A and AS Level exams will not go ahead this summer. This year we are going to put our trust in teachers rather than algorithms.*

*The department and Ofqual had already worked up a range of contingency options. While the details will need to be fine-tuned in consultation with Ofqual, the exam boards and teaching representatives, I can confirm now that I wish to use a form of teacher-assessed grades, with training and support provided to ensure these are awarded fairly and consistently.”*

Many of our Y11 pupils will have been very disappointed to hear that their formal summer GCSE exams have been cancelled. Also, as a parent of a Y11 child myself, I can fully empathise with how you, and they, are feeling. Whilst our children are almost programmed to expect exams at the end of Y11, it is important that we reassure them that all of the learning they have done so far, and the learning that they will do over the coming months, is both valued and valuable.

These children will not be disadvantaged. They will receive the grades in the summer that they deserve and that best represent both their ability, and their effort and attitude towards learning.

As yet, we do not have details about the intended system for arriving at these grades – but we know that teacher assessments will be central to this. Our assessments will not be finalised for some time yet, but will be influenced by mock exams, any future in-school or online exams, classwork and homework to date, engagement with live lessons and online learning, the quality of written tasks over the coming months, etc. It is, therefore, vitally important that pupils continue to work hard, learn and make progress throughout the rest of their Y11 (both at home and in school).

Reassuringly, from what we have seen this week, it is evident that Y11 pupils are very committed to their studies, and they know that they can count on our dedicated teachers to support them.

#### Free school meals

At the moment there is no national voucher scheme running (this may change in the coming weeks). Instead those who would normally receive FSM will be given food parcels. A google survey has been sent out to those families who normally receive FSM. Please complete this now if you have not already done so.

## Finally

The government have taken the decision to close schools again in order to help to prevent further spread of coronavirus. It is, therefore, vital that as parents you ensure that your children are at home, and are not congregating in groups outside of the home – they need to be dramatically reducing the number of contacts that they have with others (social distancing).

Although school is closed, and whether it is for the next 5 weeks or longer, we are still the family of All Hallows, and as such we want to be here for you and your child, and will endeavour to support you in any way we can. We already have plans to keep in contact with certain families via regular phone calls, and our live lessons will help keep interaction directly with pupils. In addition, you are welcome to contact school for help or guidance. This can be done either by ringing school on 0161 921 1900 between 8:30 am – 3.30 pm, or by emailing [studentservices@allhallowsrc.co.uk](mailto:studentservices@allhallowsrc.co.uk). Emails will be read and responded to during school hours.

We will continue to update you by letters, emailed as and when appropriate.

Please continue to look after yourselves and your families and to help others where possible. Know that we are here for you, and that you are in our prayers.

God bless you all.



Mrs A Cavanagh

**Head Teacher**

Please find attached:-

- Student protocols and expectations for online lessons
- Timetables for live lessons for every year group
- Letter regarding vocational exams
- Instructions for using Xbox/Playstation to access online learning
- Letter regarding free mobile data
- Messages for Y11