

ST. JOSEPH'S
CATHOLIC AND ANGLICAN HIGH SCHOOL
YSGOL UWCHRADD
GATHOLIG AC ANGLICANAIDD SANT JOSEFF
Headteacher / Pennaeth: Mr. C. Wilkinson



1/4/2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

We are approaching the end of the Spring term – and what an unexpected and unprecedented term this has been. Never before in the history of statutory schooling, or national public examinations, has there been a time like this. I had hoped to write to you on Monday of this week, but I have been awaiting further information, guidance, and clarity regarding a number of matters. Hopefully, you will find the information contained in this letter useful.

Firstly, I would like to thank those of you who have expressed messages of support for the school and our wonderful staff! This has meant a great deal to us. We are navigating a new way of operating, and distance learning is as new to us, as it is to you!

Years 7 – 10

Staff are working hard to ensure that there are worthwhile activities to support our pupils in their learning - during what could be significant period of time. The activities are there for pupils to work through at their own pace. This will be a marathon and not a sprint. I know that many pupils will be enjoying long days with varied activities that aren't set by school: chores, gardening, cooking, reading, playing games, exercising etc... this is a real opportunity!! It is however, really important that parents keep an eye on what their children are doing and striking the right balance between school work and other activities. It may seem that their googleclassrooms are being populated with an enormous amount of activities, but there is no rush to complete the activities. In some subjects, the work for the rest of the year has already been set. I will not be requiring staff to publish work during the Easter Holiday weeks. If your child is struggling with the work, they can communicate with their teacher in the classroom.

I have cold called a number of families over the past week, and have spoken with parents and pupils about their experience to date. I have to say that on the whole, apart from some teething issues, this has been really positive.

I myself am added as a teacher in every virtual classroom. This allows me to monitor who has logged on and what has been completed. In the last week, there has been 2670 interactions with Googleclassroom – which across the 560 pupils in Year 7 – 10 is not onerous. Please could you ensure that your child(ren) login to Googleclassroom and join each of their classes. The list of class codes is available on the school webpage. If there is difficulty accessing the technology please contact the school and we will try to help. We will begin to make telephone calls to those pupils' who have not yet joined classes.

GCSE Examinations

Pupils' in Year 11 (and Year 10 - GCSE English Literature) will be awarded a GCSE grade in each of their subjects. I am expecting further details about the way this will be completed by the end of this week. I will write to you again about this following the Easter Holiday.

Easter Holiday

As you will be aware, school has been open every day for a small number of pupils' to attend. This has been limited to the most vulnerable pupils' and those who are children of keyworkers. In line with Welsh Government policy, school will be open over the next two weeks (including Bank Holidays) in order to continue to provide this important service.

Amazing Staff!

I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank all staff who have been into school over the past few weeks, and for their commitment to do this throughout the holidays too. They have responded quickly and positively to the huge challenge of ensuring that learning continues to happen – albeit in a very different way.

Thoughts & Prayers

Our thoughts and prayers at this time are with all those who are affected by Covid-19 at this time. Particularly, those linked with our school community. I hope that as far as possible you remain healthy and safe.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'CJ Wilkinson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr C J Wilkinson
Headteacher