

All Hallows Catholic College

A Voluntary Academy | National Teaching School

Aspire not to have more but to be more

Brooklands Avenue, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 8LB | Telephone: 01625 426138 | Fax: 01625 468126 | admin@allhallows.org.uk | www.allhallows.org.uk

Principal - Mr T Beesley

25th June 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

RE: COVID-19 (Coronavirus) – Updated Information and Advice for Parents and Carers

On 15th June, the DfE amended its guidance about what secondary schools could do with regard to inviting other Year groups into school. The guidance states that *'We are unable to welcome back more children to secondary school at this time, beyond the face-to-face support schools can now offer year 10 and 12 pupils, and provision for vulnerable children and children of critical workers. We are not asking secondary schools with capacity to invite further year groups to return this term.'* However, it also says that, *'We know that secondary schools are keen to invite pupils in other year groups in for a face-to-face meeting before the end of this term, where it would be beneficial. As long as this happens in line with this and wider protective measures guidance, and guidance on the numbers of pupils permitted on-site at any one time, we would encourage this where possible. This time can be used to check-in on pupils, and ensure they are supported before a return to school from September or moving into employment or the next stage of education.'* The full guidance can be found at:

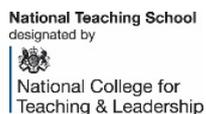
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-schools-from-1-june/planning-guide-for-secondary-schools>

Years 7, 8 & 9

With this in mind, I am very pleased to inform you that we will be inviting all Year 7 - 9 students and parents / carers into College, from Thursday 9th July, for a review meeting with their Form Tutor. Further information will be sent out nearer to the time, but Parent Gateway is now open for appointments to be made. If you have any difficulties making appointments, please contact our IT Department, at ITSupport@allhallows.org.uk. Each Form group will have two designated days available for these meetings. We will be asking students to prepare for this meeting, by reflecting on the last year, and particularly on their experience over the last few months - how they have engaged with the work, what they have done well, and what they have struggled with. We will also be asking them to think of some realistic and constructive 'targets' that they will be able to agree with their Form Tutor, and which will be added to their annual report, written by their Form Tutor. As well as giving our students the opportunity to visit the College site before the Summer holidays, these review meetings and agreed targets are also important, as they will help give the children some ideas as to how they can prepare themselves for the new school year, however that may look, and for the assessments that will be calendared for the first half-term.

Year 6 Transition

Earlier this week it was also confirmed that now that the DfE has introduced flexibilities to invite more students back into secondary schools, Year 6 transition activities can also take place, as long as it is in line with other guidance around wider protective measures and the numbers of students permitted on-site at any one time. With these changes to guidance, I have written to the parents and carers of next year's Year 7 cohort, to inform them that we are now in a position to offer Year 6 students and their families the opportunity to visit All Hallows before the end of term. We believe that by giving the children an opportunity to visit College before the start of the summer holidays, we will be supporting them in their transition to High School much more than any virtual experience we could provide. We also believe that it will be helpful for parents & carers to be given the opportunity to come into school, to talk to staff and to ask questions. These transition visits will take place between Monday 6th & Wednesday 8th July.



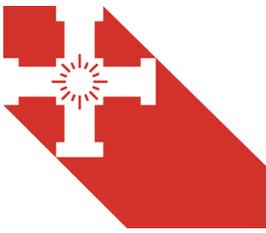
Honourable Purpose

Respect

Compassion

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Year 10

The lessons in College have been going well, with just under 80% of the Year group attending their identified Bubble. Feedback about these lessons has been very positive, as have the comments from the students about their 'live' online lessons. I originally said that the Year 10 Bubbles would be for two weeks only, in the first instance, to be reviewed. We are going to continue with the same arrangement for one more week, from Monday 29th June to Thursday 2nd July, but because of the arrangements for Years 6, 7, 8 & 9, as outlined above, the Year 10 Bubbles will cease for the last two weeks of term. The 'live' online lessons will continue for another week, up until Friday 10th July, and then work will be set on Show My Homework for the last week of term. Teachers have also begun writing end-of-year reports for Year 10, which as well as focussing on strengths and achievements, will also include clear direction as to what the youngsters can be doing to prepare themselves for the new school year, however that may look, and for the assessments that will be calendared for the first half-term.

Year 12

These lessons have also been going very well, with almost 85% of the Year group attending College on their designated day. These lessons will continue, as planned, through to Thursday 9th July. The 'live' online lessons will also continue up until Friday 10th July, and then work will be set on Show My Homework for the last week of term. Teachers have also begun writing end-of-year reports for Year 12, which as well as focussing on strengths and achievements, will also include clear direction as to what the young people can be doing to prepare themselves for the new school year, however that may look, and for the assessments that will be calendared for the first half-term.

As always, I am trying to keep you up-to-date with all our thoughts and plans, but I am sure you will understand that when guidance from the Government changes so frequently, we need to be in a position to react and make decisions for the benefit of all our students. We strongly believe that by giving them all an opportunity to visit the College site before the start of the summer holidays, we are supporting their mental health & well-being, as the majority of our youngsters have not been able to set foot in College since mid-March. We are delighted that we now have the flexibility to be able to plan for this, and to be able to do it safely. Thank you for your patience, understanding and support, and if you do want to contact me about any issue, please email me at principalpa@allhallows.org.uk.

God Bless

Tim Beesley
Principal



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