



St Michael's Catholic College

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Principal: Ms Felicity Corcoran

Vice Principal: Ms Charlotte Sayed

Vice Principal: Ms Kathleen Faherty

20th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: Notice of School Closure

Following the recent announcement regarding school closures I am writing to inform you that the College is mandated to close due to the Covid-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak across the country. At present we have been told that the College will be closed from **3:30pm on Friday 20th March** until further notice. However, in response to the government's request we intend to offer onsite provision for students whose parents are key workers as well as a small number of students who meet the Department of Education's criteria for further support e.g. vulnerable students and those with EHCP plans. Information about these categories has been communicated to parents earlier today and those who qualify will be contacted separately with further details of this provision. The government advice is however very clear that if children can stay safely at home, they must do so, to limit the chance of the Covid-19 virus spreading.

In preparation for this situation we have put together a detailed and robust contingency plan to ensure that we remain able to offer the best possible education to all of our students and in particular to ensure GCSE, A 'Level and CTEC students are able to complete key work for their courses to the absolute best of our ability under the circumstances.

During the closure work will be set for all students remotely using the Google classroom facility, all students are familiar with this and have been shown how to access their virtual classrooms. All classes have a Google classroom set up for each of their subjects where they will be able to access the work set and submit a response as instructed. Please note there will be no live video streaming between class or teacher, however students may submit a question in real time to their class teacher which staff will respond to as appropriate. At the end of this letter I have also included details of other resources that students may use to ensure they are keeping up with their learning and to support parents working with them at home.

Procedures for the setting, submitting and monitoring of work

Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12

A piece of work will be set on Google classroom for each lesson that students would normally have during the week. This work may be part of a larger project, it may be in the form of revision or revisiting activities. It could be wider reading or watching a relevant video and making notes e.g. Massolit. Work set need not always require a written response e.g. research/reading but students are required to respond to their teacher via their classroom to confirm they have completed the work and/or submit the work as instructed.

In Years 10 and 12 students' class teachers will be available and logged into Google classroom at the times when they would normally teach your child's lesson in order to respond to any question's students may have and to monitor the work they are undertaking and



submitting. In all year groups class teachers will inform Leaders of Learning and their Head of Department if any student is not regularly completing the work set and the member of SLT attached to each year group will inform parents as necessary should concerns be raised.

Years 11 and 13

As you are aware there will no longer be any formal examinations for these students but evidence will need to be provided that students have fully completed GCSE and A 'level courses which were due to run until mid-May. A piece of work will be set on Google classroom for each lesson that students would normally have during the week in order for them to provide evidence that they have completed the course. Teachers will inform Leaders of Learning and their Head of Department if any student is not regularly completing work set and the members of SLT attached to Year 11 and 13 group will inform parents as necessary should concerns be raised.

I recognise that the cancellation of exams has been very unsettling for students and I will write to parents and carers of Year 11 and 13 students once the government has fully confirmed the arrangements for the awarding of grades. I can reassure you that we will do whatever we can to ensure the students receive the grades they deserve and support them to successfully move on to 6th form, college, university, or apprenticeships as appropriate. Students should ensure they keep their books and folders as we do not know yet whether they will be needed. Parents/carers will also receive information about 6th form places at St Michael's once we have confirmation about how GCSE grades will be awarded.

In Year 12 and 13 students will be able to take their Chromebook and charger off the college premises for the duration of the closure to enable them to complete classwork and revision. Chromebooks must be returned as soon as the college is open again. Please note that failure to return a Chromebook or any damage caused is likely to result in students being charged to replace the Chromebook.

Expectations

It is expected that all students complete the classwork that has been set for them during the normal college hours of 8:40am – 3:30pm, this is vital for GCSE, A 'Level and CTEC students in order to avoid any potential disruption to their learning and progress. We therefore ask that all parents/carers support with this by monitoring their child's work and by taking any actions necessary to remove possible distractions during the day. Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the Coronavirus and ensure their children observe the same social distancing principles as adults.

Pastoral Welfare

Parents must notify Mrs D Carr, College Welfare and Attendance officer via email absence@stmichaelscollege.org.uk if their child is unwell and unable to complete work set on Google classroom at any point during the period of school closure. It is also imperative that Mrs Carr is informed immediately if your child has been diagnosed with Coronavirus or told to self-isolate due to contact with a family member/anyone who has been diagnosed with the virus. This is so that we can ensure that only students who are virus free and not in quarantine return to the college once we have been received permission to reopen. We have also made arrangements for members of staff from our inclusion team (Ms Nottage, Mrs Freegard and Mrs Chilton-Higgins) to check in regularly with those students and families they provide regular support to during the period of closure. Families whose children receive free school meals will be contacted by the college with details of the voucher system we will be offering during the closure.

Should parents/carers need to contact the college during the period of closure please do so via email using contact@stmichaelscollege.org.uk and mark the email for the attention of the relevant member of staff you wish to make contact with and they will respond in due course. This email address and the absence email address are the only ways to contact the college during the period of closure as **staff will not be responding to individual** emails whilst the college is closed.

I recognise that this is an unprecedented situation for all in the St Michael's community and I will continue to keep parents and students updated whenever I have any further information to share. Please do all that you can to stay safe and help others in your community if you able to. I will continue to keep all students, staff and families in my prayers and ask that you do the same. In times of uncertainty and difficulty it is always reassuring to turn to scripture for guidance:

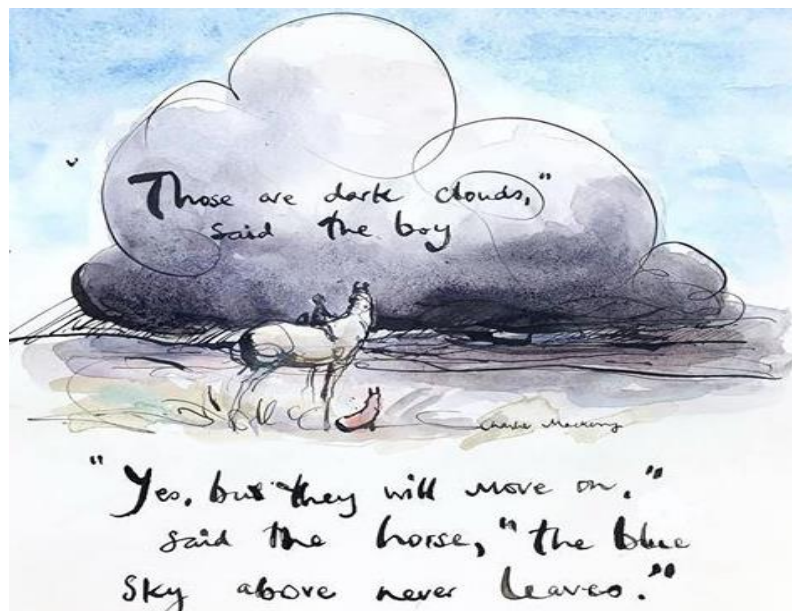
Philippians 4:6-7 'Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be known to God. And the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus'

Thank you for your support at this challenging time.

Yours faithfully,



Ms F Corcoran
Principal



Some external links for work outside of Google Classroom

Key Stage 3 content:

- BBC Bitesize: [click here](#)
- BBC Teach Skillswise: [click here](#)
- Teaching English, Vocabulary activities: [click here](#)
- Teaching English, Stories and poems with activities: [click here](#)
- Education Quizzes for Key Stage 3 on various areas of English study: [click here](#)
- British Library Learning English Timeline: [click here](#)

Key Stage 4 content:

GCSE English Language

- BBC Bitesize: [click here](#)
- BBC Teach Skillswise: [click here](#)
- Writing exercise: [click here](#)
- Teaching English, Vocabulary activities: [click here](#)
- Teaching English, Stories and poems with activities: [click here](#)
- British Library, Victorian Britain: [click here](#)
- Englishbiz: [click here](#)
- Geoff Barton's archive of student resources: [click here](#)
- Education Quizzes for GCSE on various areas of study: [click here](#)
- Quizlet: [click here](#)
- **Don't forget to go to your exam board website for past papers.**

GCSE English Literature

- BBC Bitesize: [click here](#)
- British Library Discovering Literature – Shakespeare: [click here](#)
- British Library Discovering Literature – Romantics and Victorians: [click here](#)
- British Library, Victorian Britain: [click here](#)
- British Library Discovering Literature – 20th century: [click here](#)
- Teaching English, Shakespeare: [click here](#)
- Teaching English, Jane Austen: [click here](#)
- Teaching English, Charles Dickens: [click here](#)
- Teaching English, First World War: [click here](#)

- British Library, World War One: [click here](#)
- Goconqr revision resources: [click here](#)
- Revision World text resources: [click here](#)
- Education Quizzes for GCSE on various areas of study: [click here](#)
- Quizlet, Vocabulary: [click here](#)
- **Don't forget to go to your exam board website for past papers.**

Maths

- Corbett Maths- 5 a day: [click here](#)
- Corbett Maths- videos with worksheets and exercise. [click here](#)
- Onmaths- [click here](#)
- Diagnostic questions/ Eedi. You need to register but then its all free. [click here](#)
- Dr Frost maths with a guide on how to use the website for distance learning. [click here](#)
- Mr Barton Maths. Full of ideas and support for pupils, questions and worked solutions. [click here](#)
- Mathsbot question generator- [click here](#)
- Free digital textbooks and resources from Pearson- [click here](#)
- BBCBitsize. [click here](#)
- Quick Cover- 72 lessons available free from TES. Mathsbox1. [click here](#)
- A List of maths documentaries. [click here](#)

Science

List of free websites where students can practise:

- PhET Sims – series of animations which explain lots of science ideas. Students can access animations on topics they do not understand. Click on ‘SIMULATIONS’ at the top of the page and look through: [click here](#)
- How to revise in science – click on the words ‘How to revise in science’ under the video: [click here](#)
- Khan Academy – has several videos explaining scientific concepts, great for those aiming for 7, 8 or 9 at GCSE: [click here](#)
- Physics and Maths tutor – Has a large number of revision booklets and tests for GCSE and A-Level students covering all sciences, all examination boards as well as maths: [click here](#)
- Revision videos for required practicals
 - o AQA: [click here](#)
 - o Edexcel: [click here](#)

- OCR: [click here](#)
- Free Science Lessons – This is a series of videos covering the science curriculum, very good for revision: [click here](#)
- Primrose Kitten – Series of revision videos for GCSE science: [click here](#)
- Kay Science – has a whole series of biology revision videos: [click here](#)
- Seneca learning – Has many online learning courses: [click here](#)
- Gojimo - GCSE quizzes which relate to different specifications: [click here](#)
- Quizlet – Has a series of digital flashcards for revision: [click here](#)
- Revision buddies – has short bursts of revision for science topics: [click here](#)
- BBC bitesize – is the staple revision tool, contains a number of different videos, revision information and quizzes: [click here](#)
- BBC bitesize also has a number of resources for dealing with examination stress which may also be useful at this difficult time: [click here](#)

Practical activities you can try at home

- Kitchen science – This is a resource produced by the science museum covering a host of science experiments you can try out at home: [click here](#)
- Marvin and Milo - a series of physics experiments which can be carried out at home. Click on the drop down box in the pink box to access all the cards: [click here](#)
- Buglife surveys - take part in a national wildlife survey: [click here](#)
- Create a mind map of a science topic area, learn it, cover it up, try to redraw it and compare with the original.
- Find out what science degrees are available at your local university

From GCSE Pod

<https://twitter.com/GCSEPod/status/1237823222151892993?s=20>

- *With pedagogical content knowledge for 27 GCSE/IGCSE subjects, GCSEPod make it easy to learn and revise from wherever you are, on any device and it particularly suited to remote learning. The ability to build knowledge in sequence through our unique pods, enables retention and recall when it is most needed. Teach, assess, monitor, manage and engage with an award-winning resource that puts evidence and progress at the heart of everything we do.*
- GCSEPod have also created a Pinterest page full of free resources for teachers and parents – [pinterest.co.uk/GCSEPodResources](https://www.pinterest.co.uk/GCSEPodResources) – we are adding stuff to this daily.

Support from Chatter Pack: Boredom-busting activities to do at home

<https://chatterpack.net/blogs/blog/resources-list-for-home-learning>

1. Keep a journal. Each day spend 6 minutes writing a response to the following points:
 1. *I'm grateful for... (make 3 points)*
 2. *This is how I'll make today great...*
 3. *My good deed today...*
 4. *How I'll improve...*
 5. *Great things I experienced today... (make 3 points)*
2. Stay fit. Joe Wicks 7 days of sweat. Hit link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QXmdXilQaqA>
3. Photography challenge. Document your time in self-isolation in photographs (your mood, what you did, how you felt).
4. Cookery challenge. Look in the cupboards. What do you have? Can you come up with a meal idea from it? Get your adult to help you. Extra marks for putting together a totally original/mad/weird recipe.
5. Learn a skill from the internet (for example, learn to juggle/ play the guitar/ learn a dance. Hit the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JZmmOdnljG4>
6. Learn a magic trick from the internet. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VWw_1-gEdLA
7. Learn a dance step (for example "How to moonwalk"). Hit the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eYT48mu-TIc>
8. Pick a type of food that you like and grow it. Get the seeds from the fruit or veg and actually grow your food in a pot. Great way to get some fresh air.
9. Make an origami crane (hit the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KfnyopxdJXQ>)
10. Learn some basic sign language (hit the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OU8XdJgK3aY>)
11. Learn some new words in a foreign language
12. Read a book that you haven't read before. Challenge yourself!
13. Pick a household chore and take it over (want to know how to iron? Hit the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vnkHbDKnSJ4>.)
14. Learn how to recycle (Visit "Terracycle". Hit the link: <https://www.terracycle.com/en-GB/>)
15. Calculate the value of pi (3.14) to as many decimal points as you can (it goes on forever!)
16. Go on-line and find a World Record that you can try and break at home (hit the link: <https://kids.guinnessworldrecords.com/act.../try-this-at-home/>)