



St Michael's Catholic College

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Principal: Ms Felicity Corcoran

Vice Principal: Ms Charlotte Sayed

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20th April 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer,

RE: Information for Parents/Carers of Year 11 students

The summer term starts today, albeit in a very different way than usual. St Michael's staff remain committed to providing high quality learning for our students and to supporting all in our community at this time.

Home Learning

While the college starts to undertake the process of arriving at calculated GCSE grades for Year 11 students, it is important that students continue to complete the work that is being set for them on Google classroom. Subject teachers at the college will continue to set work for students so they are able to fully complete their GCSE courses in the form of two tasks each week per subject up until Friday 1st May. While this work will not contribute to calculated grades, it is in students' best interests to properly complete GCSE courses and is valuable preparation for 6th form education. **You do not need to do the work with your child but we do ask that you monitor that your child is doing the work set, just as you have done with homework tasks.** Leaders of Learning and members of the Senior Leadership Team will be monitoring work completed by students and contacting parents to provide updates and support as needed. We have already been able to support students who do not have access to the internet or a device to work on at homes, so please do get in touch with your child's Leader of learning via the contact@stmichaelscollege.org.uk email address if you need support with this or if you have any concerns or questions.

From Monday 4th May we will move to the process of setting 6th form transition work to help Year 11 students prepare for A 'Levels and CTEC courses. It is likely that the college will use this transition work along with calculated grades to support decisions about acceptance onto specific courses in the college sixth form in September. More details about transition work and 6th form places will be sent out to students and parents within the next two weeks.

Calculated grades and GCSE results

The college will be following the Ofqual guidance to the letter about calculating GCSE grades for students in Year 11 to ensure the process is evidence based and fair for all students. This guidance makes it clear that grades should be based on a range of evidence e.g. classwork, homework, mock examination results and coursework/practical exams that have already been completed. Grades calculated by the college will be moderated formally by examination boards and as a result could be subject to change by the board. Ofqual have made it clear to schools that they will not be allowed to discuss calculated grades with students or parents and in particular any attempt by students to influence teachers or discuss their grade with teachers would be regarded as exam malpractice which carries serious penalties. The Department of Education has



now confirmed that GCSE results will be published on **Thursday 20th August** as originally planned, therefore students must ensure they are available on this date to collect their results and enrol into the College 6th form if they are offered a place.

Wellbeing

I appreciate how challenging it is for parents/carers of Year 11 students at the moment following the cancellation of the formal GCSE examinations. I would advise you to encourage your child to stick to a daily routine which includes regular home learning for the benefit of both their education and their wellbeing. Ms Nottage, Mrs Freegard and Mrs Chilton-Higgins are regularly checking in with the students they would usually be supporting in college. We are also mindful of those in our community who have been unwell or who have sadly suffered bereavements as a result of the Coronavirus and are very aware about the impact of this on children and families. Therefore, if you feel your child needs support with any aspect of their wellbeing or you would like to speak to the inclusion team or staff trained in parental support, please get in touch via the contact@stmichaelscollege.org.uk email address. The Parent Zone website also has produced some excellent guidance for parents which can be accessed using this link:

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/quaranteened-helping-teenagers-cope-lockdown>

Free School Meals Vouchers

The college put immediate arrangements in place to send out Sainsburys e-vouchers to parents of those students eligible for free school meals as soon as the college was directed to close and this has continued over the Easter holidays. The Government have now put in place a national voucher scheme which we will move to using from today, parents of those students who are eligible to receive free school meals will be emailed weekly vouchers from Edenred who supply the vouchers which can be used at 6 different supermarkets. If your circumstances have changed and you think that your child would now be eligible for free school meals please make an application to your local authority and contact the college via contact@stmichaelscollege.org.uk to let us know you have made an application. We can also provide details of support available to any parents/carers experiencing difficulties due to a recent change in financial circumstances as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak.

The staff at St Michael's are working hard to support you and your children at this challenging time and thank you for your support in ensuring that students continue with their education at home. I am aware that there is a lot of speculation at the moment in the media about when and how schools will reopen, however the Department of Education confirmed again yesterday that schools will only reopen once the scientific advice indicates that it is the right time to do so. Therefore, we will continue with our plan for remote learning until this guidance changes.

I hope that you and your families remain safe and well and I ask that you continue to keep all those in our community in your prayers, especially those who are mourning the loss of a family member or loved one.

Yours faithfully



Ms F. Corcoran

Principal