



St Michael's Catholic College

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www.stmichaelscollege.org.uk

Principal: Ms Felicity Corcoran

Vice Principal: Ms Charlotte Sayed

Vice Principal: Ms Kathleen Faherty

20th April 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Re: Information for Parents/Carers of students in Years 7, 8 and 9.

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

As you know we have set up Google classrooms for every subject that your child studies and work will be set as follows for students in Years 7-9:

- **English, Maths, Science and RE - 2 pieces of work to be set each week. 1 piece to be set on Monday and to be submitted on the Wednesday and 1 piece set on the Wednesday for submission on Friday.**
- **Geography/History/MFL piece of work set on a Monday to be submitted by Friday.**
- **DT, Music, Art, Drama, PE, Computing 1 piece of work per fortnight.**

The work set may come in a range of forms – it may be part of larger project work, watching a video and making notes, research or reading. **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.** In addition to this students will be set CPHSE (Citizenship, Personal, Health and Social Education) tasks by their tutors for completion each week and House competitions and challenges will continue to run. We understand that some students have to share access to the computers at home which is why we have amended the frequency of the work set so that they have time to complete work properly. We have also created home learning booklets which can be sent home for any students who do not have the internet or a device to access work set on Google classrooms. We have had to prioritise providing college laptops to KS4 and KS5 students and are waiting for more details about the government scheme launched yesterday about how to apply for funding to purchase additional laptops to support with home learning. Leaders of Learning and members of the Senior Leadership Team will be monitoring work completed by students in each year group every week and contacting parents to provide updates and support as needed. Please do get in touch with your child's Leader of learning via the contact@stmichaelscollege.org.uk email address if you have any concerns or questions. If your child is in Year 9 you will be receiving information shortly about the options process so that you can support your child in choosing their GCSE options for September 2020.

Wellbeing

I appreciate how challenging it can be for parents at the moment and I would advise you to encourage your child to stick to a daily routine which includes regular home learning for the



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benefit of both their education and their wellbeing. Ms Nottage, Ms Freegard and members of the inclusion team 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 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. Thank you for your support in ensuring that work is completed, so that when the students are back in college, they haven't missed out. 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

Additional support for Key Stage 3 students:

In the meantime, if your children are looking for more activities to complete, please see below for a list of websites that will support their remote working.

- BBC Bitesize online activities plus a range of new TV programmes starting today
- BBC Teach Skillswise:
- Teaching English, Vocabulary activities
- Teaching English, Stories and poems with activities
- Education Quizzes for Key Stage 3 on various areas of English study
- British Library Learning English Timeline
- **Support from Chatter Pack: Boredom-busting activities to do at home**
<https://chatterpack.net/blogs/blog/resources-list-for-home-learning>
- Stay fit - Joe Wicks workouts on YouTube
- Amazon Global audio books are free: stories.audible.com/discovery
- There are free online virtual visits to 17 museums across Europe:
<https://www.demotivateur.fr/article/visiter-des-musees-sans-bouger-de-son-canape-le-plan-parfait-pendant-la-quarantaine-19057>