



St Michael's Catholic College

Llewellyn Street, Bermondsey, London SE16 4UN

Tel: 020 7237 6432 / Fax: 020 7252 2411

www.stmichaelscollege.org.uk

Principal: Ms Felicity Corcoran

Vice Principal: Ms Charlotte Sayed

Vice Principal: Ms Kathleen Faherty

3rd April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: End of Spring term letter from The Principal

At this stage of the spring term staff and students at St Michael's would usually be preparing for Holy week and Easter, through participation in reconciliation services at the college and Lenten liturgical services at the Most Holy Trinity Church Dockhead. However, the Covid-19 outbreak has resulted in the closure of the college and a move to online education and home learning which is unprecedented and unsettling for all in our community.

We are fortunate that our work over the past few years to set up the Google classroom platform at St Michael's meant we were well placed to cope with the challenge of moving to remote learning. Teaching staff have worked extremely hard to ensure that high quality work has been set regularly for all students since Monday 23rd March so that they are able to continue with their education at this time. Leaders of Learning and members of the Senior Leadership Team have been monitoring students' work and contacting parents/guardians as needed to help them support their children; and staff from the inclusion team are keeping in regular contact by telephone to provide support, guidance and in some cases counselling services to vulnerable students. I am pleased to report that most students have been demonstrating their commitment to their education and the Salesian ethos of the college by continuing to produce excellent work and participating in online House competitions. Examples will be shared in our Good News edition of "The Link" which is due to be published today.

Our Easter break is scheduled to take place from Monday 6th April - Friday 17th April and I can confirm that class teachers will not be setting work during this time. All students will be expected to use this time to complete any outstanding work and homework they have been set over the break. Online lessons will start again on **Monday 20th April** and I will be writing to all parents at the start of next term to clarify expectations and arrangements for the summer term and to Year 11 and 13 parents to confirm arrangements for the awarding of GCSE and A'Level grades which are due to be announced by Ofqual later today. However, we will continue to run House competitions over the Easter break to help keep students occupied and details can be found at the end of this letter, do encourage your child/ren to participate.

This is a challenging time for everyone and it has never been more important for us to demonstrate our Gospel and Salesian values in support and service to others in our community. I am truly grateful to the large numbers of teaching staff and premises staff who have been able to volunteer to come into the college since the 23rd March and who will continue to do so throughout the Easter break (including on Good Friday and Easter Monday) and for as long as needed to provide provision for students whose parents are key workers in the NHS or whose jobs are necessary in the fight against Covid-19, as well as for a small number of vulnerable students. I would like to also thank members of our finance and administration teams have also been working hard with Mr S. Kelly to ensure all parents/carers of those students entitled to free school meals are able to take up the college's offer of supermarket vouchers to support their families at this time. As Christians we are called to serve others for the greater good and this has never been more important. Therefore, I would ask any of you that



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are able to, to volunteer and to encourage your children to volunteer in your local communities as much as you can at this time of great need. Covid-19 Mutual Aid Facebook pages have been set up in all boroughs where people can offer or ask for help and many parishes have set up similar initiatives. If you are in need of support yourself and live in Southwark please use this link to access help including information about food hubs. <https://www.southwark.gov.uk/benefits-and-support/emergency-support> If you live outside of Southwark and are in need of support please go to your local council website to find out about what is available to you. If you are not sure where to turn to then please do contact the college and we will point you in the right direction to help you access the support you need.

I am very sorry to report that there are some amongst us who have already been affected by the Covid-19 outbreak and are grieving for the loss of family members or loved ones to the virus and I ask you to please remember them in your prayers. As we head towards Easter, may the story of the resurrection and the light of the risen Lord comfort and sustain us all at this difficult time. The Easter prayer below written by Annabel Shilson-Thomas from Cafod is a reminder of this:

Resurrection Light

Risen Christ, when darkness overwhelms us
may your dawn beckon.

When fear paralyses us
may your touch release us.

When grief torments us
may your peace enfold us.

When memories haunt us
may your presence heal us.

When justice fails us
may your anger ignite us.

When apathy stagnates us
may your challenge renew us.

When courage leaves us
may your spirit inspire us.

When despair grips us
may your hope restore us.

And when death threatens us
may your resurrection light lead us.

Amen.

I would like to conclude by wishing you all a happy and holy Easter, I hope and pray that you and your families stay safe and well.

Yours Sincerely



Ms F. Corcoran

Principal

Easter House Competitions

During the Easter holidays, St Michael's will be continuing to run our college House competitions - this will be an opportunity for students to participate and gain points for the house that they are in.

These competitions can be found below, with more details being posted on their House Google Classroom page. Entries should be submitted via Google Classroom with the opportunity to win some great prizes, from house points to Amazon vouchers!

Year 7-9

<u>Challenge</u>	<u>Instructions</u>	<u>Submission method</u>
Bake-Off Challenge*	Bake a cake with the theme "UK in lockdown"	Picture submitted on Google Classroom
Art Competition*	Create an image to lift everyone's spirits based on the season of Spring	Picture submitted on Google Classroom
Poetry Competition*	Write a poem entitled "Freedom in Captivity"	Picture/Work Doc. submitted on Google Classroom

Year 10-13

<u>Challenge</u>	<u>Instructions</u>	<u>Submission method</u>
Poetry Competition*	Write a poem entitled "Freedom in Captivity"	Picture/Work Doc. submitted on Google Classroom
Bake-Off Challenge*	Bake a cake with the theme "UK in lockdown"	Picture submitted on Google Classroom
Creative Writing Challenge	Write a mini-saga in 100 words on the theme "missing". More information available on the google classroom.	Word Doc/Picture on Google Classroom

All challenges are due for completion by **Friday the 17th April** should your child wish to take part.

Entries* will also be entered to the Southwark Schools' Learning Partnership (SSLP) for competition amongst other Southwark schools.

More information on all of the challenges can be found on your child's House google classroom.