



Dear Parent/Carer s

25th March 2020

AMENDMENT TO SCHOOL OPENING

These are exceptional times and our thoughts and prayers are with you and your families at this time.

As you may be aware, the College has sought to remain open to the children of key workers and vulnerable students. This offer has been accepted by very few parents and on Tuesday, only two students attended site and the parents of both of these students have now sought to provide work at home.

Following on from the briefing from the Prime Minister on Monday night that only essential journeys should be made, and the expectation of self-isolation and social distancing, I have come to a view that it is not reasonable for me to ask staff to travel to school without any guarantee that there will be children here to teach.

I have sought the permission of the Chair of Governors, Mr Paul Lasok and the Director of Catholic Education, JP Morrison, to close the school to staff in the short term so that staff can work from home. I have also advised the Islington Education Department of this outcome. **A skeleton senior and support staff will be at school so that children of key workers and vulnerable children can attend.**

This is not a decision that has been made lightly. Before the decision was made, I have secured the following:

- That all students were aware of the expectation that they should access showmyhomework and complete the work set there or other resources that were made available.
- That staff would ensure that work is uploaded to this platform.
- That all students were aware of the passwords required for on line access.
- That all students have a nominated member of staff who will make contact with you on a weekly basis.
- That all parents/carers will be updated on how much on line studying is being completed by each child.
- That all students who are entitled to free school meals will be provided with a voucher which may be spent at a nominated supermarket. Further information on this is to follow, if you have not already been contacted by the provider already.

Into the future, based on feedback, the school will be looking to post resources home and will investigate how we can provide additional resources and support to families and our students.

I will review this decision on a regular basis, and take advice from relevant bodies. The College will be open on Monday, and any change to demand from parents or carers for provision and I will write to you again.

In the interim, if you have any questions or seek provision for your child (if you are a key worker or your child/ward is a vulnerable child), please continue to contact enquiries and leave your contact details, arrangements have been made for your child to continue to attend school if you wish, supervised by senior staff.

I am also aware that many parents and students will also be anxious about their summer examination results. There is greater clarity about these now and I will write separately on this share with you what is known.

As we journey towards Easter, it is good to remember that this is a season of preparation and sacrifice, but it is also one of hope. I look forward to a time when we will meet again and pray that we are all safe and well until then.

Thank you for your support during this difficult time.

Yours sincerely

Mr A English
Associate Headteacher

Ms J Heffernan
Executive Headteacher