

SACRED HEART

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs S Howell



Wednesday 20th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As you are aware, the unpredictable COVID-19 situation has led to schools having to react quickly to significant changes in education policy. I would particularly like to thank our students and staff for their incredible commitment to this month's move to virtual learning. We know working from home is far from easy and we have been delighted at the attitude students have adopted to this new way of studying. Being behind a screen and online every day, accessing virtual sessions, can be challenging. Staff are closely monitoring these challenges, we will keep our curriculum offer under review, amending our practice and expectations as necessary.

In addition to the impact of the day-to-day operational policy changes, there are of course many longer-term effects to the normal school year. This letter seeks to give you as much information as we have on key areas, outlining our plans for the coming months.

Online learning

Your daughter will continue to follow her normal timetable until February Half Term (and any subsequent lockdown period). A register is taken at the start of each lesson. As I mentioned in my last letter, if your daughter is not online for a session or has any issues in accessing her virtual lessons, please contact the Head of Progress via the helpdesk email enquiries@shhs.org.uk, who will make the necessary arrangements to resolve any problems. We expect every student to have excellent behaviour in all virtual classrooms, the same code of conduct and high standards of behaviour that are expected of them in school.

Reports and Parents' Evenings

We plan to issue a Grade Card to all year groups in late March. Assuming no further lockdown complications, your daughter will receive her written Tutor report in the summer term.

It would seem highly unlikely that face-to-face Parents' Evenings would be permitted this academic year. Therefore, all Parents' Evenings will be online meetings in the coming months. Parents will be able to access these meetings via their phone, laptop, or tablet. Details of revised timings for all 'Parents' Evenings' will be available after Half Term.

Year 9 GCSE & BTEC Option Choices

Parents of students in Year 9 should already have received separate correspondence to explain how we plan to run GCSE option choices this year. It is very important that parents and students discuss interests, Higher Education plans and careers when making GCSE and BTEC choices. Support is always available from school; please contact your daughter's Head of Progress should you wish to discuss GCSE options.



Bishop
Bewick
Catholic
Education
Trust

Assessment

Teachers were able to carry out some academic assessments across all year groups before the latest lockdown. Departments are working on revised modes of assessment and these will take place online until such time as school is open to all.

Thank you for your continued support of your daughter and of school as these challenging times continue.

Best wishes,



Mrs S Howell
Headteacher