



RESPECT
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Cardinal Heenan Catholic High School

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Ms K. Smyth Headteacher

JR/KS

22nd January 2021

Dear Parents

Once again I find myself writing to you in another lockdown and whilst it was not the start of a new year that any of us would have liked, I do hope that you are all keeping well and safe.

We are now operating full remote teaching to all year groups, apart from the small group of students who are on the school site. Staff have been working hard to adapt their resources to ensure that we continue to differentiate the learning to meet the needs of all students and offer an excellent education. This is by no means an easy task and I am sure, like me, you are in awe of the dedication and resilience of our staff. Indeed, I have been overwhelmed by the lovely emails I have received which have complimented the staff on their professionalism and the high standards of the lessons. I have been able to 'eavesdrop' on many lessons and I have observed excellent practice in English, history, science and music. Equally the student response has been most impressive and I have seen exceptional work being completed live on MS Teams. It would be remiss of me if I didn't mention the very valuable role that you as parents play in supporting and cajoling your sons. Please accept my heartfelt thanks for all that you are doing. I do hope that if you have any concerns or questions that you will make contact with the school directly so that we can work together to address any issues.

We have been monitoring student engagement and we are generally pleased that the significant majority of our students remain engaged in their learning and recognise the importance of this. For the small minority who are not logging on during form time, can I please ask that you, as parents, make every effort to ensure that your son is getting up in the morning ready for their day of remote learning. This means being dressed and ready to learn from 8.30am. Students should follow their timetable so that they complete five hours learning a day. They must attend all face to face live lessons on Teams. All work should be uploaded onto Teams to be reviewed and/or completed in workbooks. We sent all students an exercise book last week as some pupils didn't have paper. Subject teams have also been sending work booklets home to support those who may not have access to a printer or paper. If there is anything else we can support you with, please contact the key stage coordinator. We are also putting a questionnaire on the website, regarding remote learning, for students to complete (<https://tinyurl.com/y3h5brzi>). We want their opinions on how to improve the current way of doing things. All feedback issues will go to the key stage coordinators and will be dealt with on an individual basis.

We do monitor attendance to lessons and we will communicate to parents any student who has not logged on. For our Year 11 and Year 13 parents, I know the cancellation of all exams is likely to be causing you a good deal of anxiety but I would like to stress that we will be doing everything we can to support your son through this uncertain time. As soon as I have any further information, I will write to you. In the meantime we want Year 11 students who are hoping to attend sixth form to fill in the online application form. This



helps us to plan the curriculum for next year and it allows staff the opportunity to look at the possible students for their subjects, which then assists them in planning the bridging projects.

Despite our current situation, we do have a number of 'events' which we plan to hold virtually. The Year 12 and 13 parents' evening will be held on **Tuesday 2 February**. A letter will be sent out to you on how to enrol. Similarly the Year 11 parents' evening will take place on **Tuesday, 9 February**. The date for the Year 9 options evening will be confirmed shortly.

If you are sending your son into school it is important that he is adhering to the following: He must be in full school uniform including his coat. He must have a mask and hand sanitiser. If he comes to school without a mask he **MUST** purchase one for £1.50. Regretfully, if he fails to follow the rules then he will be sent home. For those students on FSM, ASDA vouchers will be sent out every two weeks.

During these uncertain times, our safeguarding team continue to offer counselling and support for our students; their wellbeing and good health is so important so please do let your son's head of year know if we can help in any way.

Please continue to keep well and safe and let us know if we can do anything to support you and your son during this time. Without wishing to sound clichéd, it is so important at this time that we work together and show one another good will and decency.. Indeed I think Mark Twain summed it up admirably when he said, "Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see." God bless you all.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Smyth', written in a cursive style.

K Smyth
Headteacher