



# Holy Family Catholic High School

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Headteacher: Mr M Symes BA(Hons), NPQH

Friday, January 29, 2021

Dear Parent,

I hope you are all well and safe. This week's updates include:

## The '2-week Challenge'

Next week is Children's Mental Health Week. Over the next two weeks, we are going to set a series of challenges for both pupils and staff. This is to boost morale, encourage pupils (and staff) to do exercise / learn a new skill and connect with others.

There will be 5 challenges for pupils to complete in accordance with the 'five steps to mental wellbeing':

- **Be active** (various exercise challenges)
- **Keep learning** (links to learning a new skill - knitting, cooking, sign language etc...)
- **Take notice** (take a picture of nature in your local area, partake in a meditation session, make a gratitude jar/journal)
- **Connect** (phone an elderly relative, have a zoom quiz or just a chat with a group of friends)
- **Give** (a random act of kindness)

Form Tutors briefly explained the challenge in today's Wellbeing lesson and Progress Leaders will upload the challenge on Teams on Monday. Pupils (and staff) then have two weeks to attempt the 5 challenges and send evidence of having attempted all 5 categories to their Form Tutors. There will be prizes in each year group including Amazon vouchers and the chance to be in the raffle for an Ipad. In order to provide some 'off screen' time for pupils, this will replace some of the timetabled lessons, and there will be one period per day dedicated to the '2-week challenge'.

## Returning to school

On Wednesday, the Prime Minister confirmed that schools would not re-open before Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March and that this will be dependent upon a number of different factors. We will receive two weeks' notice of reopening and it is quite likely that pupils will return on a phased basis.

## GCSE / A Level and Vocational Qualifications (Summer 2021)

As mentioned in an earlier letter, Ofqual is currently consulting on plans for the grading process for those pupils who were due to sit examinations at GCSE / A Level and in vocational qualifications this summer. The consultation ends today and we expect further information on grading plans during the week beginning Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February. I'll write again when we know the findings of the consultation.

## Surveys

We have had 576 responses from pupils about their experiences with remote learning so far. The feedback has been very positive and informative, and we are using this to tweak what we do so that we can continue to improve our provision. We will send a survey out to parents early next week.

## Laptops

Please let your child's form Tutor know if your child needs our support. We have a number of laptops that we can loan out.

## Remote Learning timetable

The timetables will stay the same as last week and will remain unchanged until half-term.

Thank you for your patience and perseverance in supporting your child/ren at home. I hope you get some well-earned rest this weekend. If you need us at any time, please contact us and we will do all we can to help.

Take care and best wishes,

Mr Symes