



12 February 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

Thank you so much for your ongoing support over yet another half term of remote learning. We cannot thank you enough for all your kind words regarding the fact that St Gabriel's has continued to deliver as many live online lessons as possible. We are determined to ensure that your children have the very best education any School can offer during this pandemic.

In addition to online learning, we have provided core subject revision guides, purchased for all students in KS3 and are delivering English and Maths booster sessions for educationally vulnerable Y11 students, whose mock results indicate they need extra support to reach a grade 4 and enter further education.

We have also been working very closely with Bury College and Holy Cross to ensure that Year 11s fulfil their Key Stage 4 curriculum and have access to Key Stage 5 support and resources, to prepare them for College earlier than ever.

Bury College have provided the following links, which we will also put on our website in the student section (Pupils Tab – KS3/4 Learning), so please open the tab to follow if you have a child in Year 11, or a child in Year 10 and want to know more about what happens at Key Stage 5;

Bury College latest brochure outlining the Opportunities for School Leavers including the range of virtual events available to your Year 11 pupils can be found here:

<https://burycollege.ac.uk/media/3526/supporting-you-brochure-digital.pdf>

Virtual opportunities live on our website include:

Virtual Tour: <https://burycollege.ac.uk/VirtualTour/index.html>

Virtual Open Event: <https://burycollege.ac.uk/virtual-open-event/> *

Be Bury College Ready: <https://burycollege.ac.uk/how-we-support-you/be-bury-college-ready/> - As mentioned the curriculum resources fall under the 'Be Prepared Section' *

Both Bury College's Virtual Open Event and 'Be Bury College Ready' will be relaunching in the coming weeks and details about this can be found in the Opportunities for School Leavers brochure above.

Please see below a message directly from Bury College;

*With all the uncertainty and worry during this unprecedented time, we would like to help remove any concerns regarding applying for Bury College courses for 2021. Any year 11 pupils who **applies from your school will be guaranteed a place** at Bury College in September 2021 should they wish to accept it. We are therefore still welcoming applications and would like to reassure you and your pupils that no one will be disadvantaged.*

For those still undecided about the opportunities available to them at college we have the below Pathways and Apprenticeship presentation:

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full"

Justice, Tolerance, Forgiveness and Generosity

Headteacher Miss L Corrigan BSc (Hons), PGCE, PGDip, NPQH, FRSB

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HSL Pathways Presentation <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcL1cTWnrMk>

Apprenticeship Presentation <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V5jRtfl3dbs>

Students exercise books and progress checks.

Once the Government have given School the go ahead to return to School, we will notify you in writing regarding any staggered return to School. On our return, students will not be studying in one room, but will use the entire building, following a one-way system, in order that all students can again access the full curriculum, including all technology lessons. A film will be produced to ensure students are aware of how to move around the building, but we politely remind you that students will be provided with a visor and must **wear minimally a mask at all times whilst inside the building**. We have provided visors as an extra protection and because it is difficult for a class teacher to have interaction with 30 students all with their mouths covered! Wish us luck!!

Students' exercise books will not be back marked, as I am sure you appreciate that having been learning from home, this would be an enormous, unrealistic amount of work to ask our staff to undertake. However, staff have been assessing your child throughout the home learning period by setting pieces of work to be submitted, setting end of week assessments, and giving them feedback on this work, so we are aware of who has struggled with what and who has shown specific strengths.

Assessments will take over a staggered period once students return and have settled in, for us to assess their progress over the School year so far and be able to report this progress back to you. Our calendar for assessments is under constant re-evaluation to take into account student well-being and the Government's ongoing advice re assessments and return to School dates.

Actions for next half term: core subject revision guides for Y10 students will be distributed, Y11 NEA (non-examined assessments – coursework) catch-up days are scheduled during the first two weeks after half term. Plans for Y11 departmental interventions and Easter school are also already underway to ensure we have every piece of evidence we require for your child's centre assessed grade or that they are fully prepared for externally set assessments, should this be the pathway your child chooses to follow. Information pertaining to Y11 Centre-Assessed Grades will be shared once we have received confirmation of arrangements from the DfE/Ofqual. **The Y9 options process will begin and all Y9 parents and carers can expect a letter to inform and guide them on this process.**

Finally, thank you to all the students who despite lockdown, have represented the school through being part of the student development team who are working on updating our rewards systems, the newsletter team and the eco team who have still been meeting remotely, the Year 8 students working with a poet to create poetry for the Manchester Festival and those attending Bury Youth Parliament tomorrow night. Lockdown can't stop us enhancing our community!

We wish you all a peaceful half term and god bless you all at the start of our Lenten period next week.

***God of love, fill my heart with your compassion and mercy
Throughout my Lenten journey, inspire me to come to know you better and
To reach out on love to others. Amen***

Online live masses can be accessed at www.faithstream.co.uk/olgcga - Father Paul Cannon, Guardian Angels and St Hilda's. All are welcome!

The St Gabriel's Team