



St. Antony's Catholic College

Aspire - Believe - Achieve

School Newsletter

May 2020

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Dear current students and parents/carers, incoming students and parents/carers, potential students and parents/carers, governors and other stakeholders,

I hope this update finds you and your families safe and healthy as we enter another week of school closure and of lockdown. It's almost two months since Boris announced on 18th March 2020 that schools would be closing in two days and the St Antony's family has been working since then to make sure our community is safe, that high quality learning experiences are provided for all and that we ensure that lines of communication are clear and open.

Mr Speake, the pastoral team and the safeguarding team have prioritised keeping in touch with all of our students and the senior leadership team, Mrs Adderley and Miss Weinberg have been contacting all our new Year 7s. Weekly work is set on SMHW and summarised on the School Closure page of the website. Mrs Rothwell, my PA, has been amazing in keeping everyone informed through Facebook and the website and many staff have tried to keep students engaged with school through challenges and quizzes. We hoped you liked our We Miss You video!

We've taken feedback from you with regard to the work we have been setting and made adjustments and we will be contacting you again soon about preparing for your return to school, whenever this may be. We really need your input to make sure we get this right. We are fully staffed for September and both current and new staff are looking forward to seeing you.

Remember to get in touch if you have any queries of any sort. New Year 7s can email year6info@st-antonys.com and current students can email the relevant member of staff. A teacher email helpsheet is on the website. There is a supply of stationery, sanitary products and reading books in the school entrance. Many of you are also owed chocolate as part of Fantastic Friday. Please feel free to collect if you are passing school. We will social distance appropriately.

We ask you as always to continue to best the best that you can be, whether that be in school or at home and to fulfil our Mission Statement as shown (and illustrated by Ella Burgess). The remainder of this newsletter shows what the St Antony's community has been up to, in school, at home and in the community over the last few weeks. Enjoy!

ellwright





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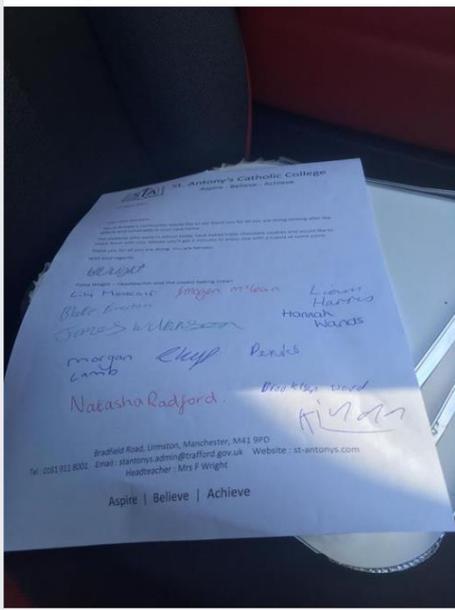
In School

We have a small, and now slightly growing as we seek to cater for changing parent and student needs, group of students with us in school supervised by a skeleton staff whilst the majority stay at home following the government instruction to protect the NHS and save lives. They follow a structured system of learning in the morning (following the same work as those at home) with sports and wellbeing activities following later in the day. The weather overall has been kind and time has been spent outside when possible.

The school gang has been very creative with artwork covering many school windows. They've cooked with me (sorry about your room Mr Reynard!) a few times, making cheese and ham toasties, pizza, bread buns and cookies which they shared with care workers in local care homes. They produced a particularly lovely piece for VE Day, when they delivered a version of Churchill's speech, adapted by Miss Lambert. This can be viewed on the school website.



Mrs Wright and the cookie baking crew were delighted to deliver some triple chocolate cookies to the care workers at the local care homes. We thank you for all you do and we hope you managed to enjoy them with a well deserved cup of tea!





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At Home

The priority of the teaching staff, once we have been assured that the students are safe and well, is to provide high quality work. The feedback with regard to this has been overwhelmingly positive and I am very grateful to your teachers that they have provided such an excellent curriculum offer to you. Our Expectations of Distance Learning have been detailed in the document of the same name which can be found on the school website. The best thing parents can do is to support students in some structured learning every day but we fully understand that family circumstances are very different and can make this very challenging. The same applies to our teaching and support staff and is summed up by the quote below, bottom left.



We know that some are finding things very hard. KS3 (Years 7, 8 and 9) students should be working through the work set each week. Teachers are feeding back through the use of STAR awards and Fantastic Friday. Remember you can self-nominate for FF by emailing me on f.wright@st-antony.com. We recently added in Careers activities to enable you to familiarise yourself with systems you will be using on your return. Please do these. If you need help with Maths or Science don't forget that you can email Ms Woods on c.woods@st-antony.com. It's great to hear that most of you are working well with the work set. It's so important that you do.

Year 10s, naturally we have to expect more of you as you have a very big year ahead of you. We don't know what this will look like but it's even more important for you to engage with the work set. We haven't forgotten about those of you in Year 11. Make sure you are doing something every day to engage your brains. You have the Keeping up the momentum document and the great work from Loreto College. The more you do now, the easier transition will be in September to wherever you go. We are working hard, following all the relevant guidelines, to ensure that the centre assessed grades and rankings are submitted in a timely, fair and consistent manner.

Keep in touch with Mrs Doherty. Students are also getting involved in some regional projects. Thank you to the six students contributing to the Trafford 'Living History' Archive Project and to those who will be working on a new film project we've been invited to be involved in. Watch this space! I've loved seeing what you've been up to so thank you for sending your work and pictures.





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In the Community



I frequently state, to anyone who will listen, that I am both proud and privileged to be the Headteacher of St Antony's. I am particularly proud in these most difficult circumstances that we find ourselves in, to say that we did our bit. The list below outlines just some of the ways we've contributed to our local community in recent weeks:



150 pairs of Science goggles provided to the NHS.

Mrs Adderley and her helpers making hundreds of full face visors for the NHS and other keyworkers.



The in school student team making cookies for careworkers.

Mrs Hafferty, admin team, making hundreds of cupcakes for Trafford General staff and other frontline workers.

St Antony's colleagues volunteering as NHS responders.



420 saplings provided by the Woodland Trust being donated on to the local community.

Cake provided to the Little Sisters of the Poor St Joseph's Care Home.



Rainbows being added to the St Antony's tradition of Manchester Bees to make money for Trafford General staff. We have already provided cupcakes with another 200 going in on Tuesday 12th May to help them celebrate International Nurses Day. They have asked for some outside furniture to be provided with the money made from the sales of the rainbows and bees and we are delighted to be able to support them in a more long term way.