



St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School

Prepare the way of the Lord

Rookery Avenue,
Ashton-in-Makerfield,
Wigan, WN4 9PF
Telephone: 01942 728651
Email: office@arrowsmith.wigan.sch.uk
Web: <http://www.arrowsmith.wigan.sch.uk>
Headteacher: Mr. M. J. Dumican
B.A. (Hons), PGCE, NPQH, MSc, MEd

27 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Now that we have had our new way of working in place for a week I wanted to update you with some further information.

Firstly, I would like to state how incredibly proud I am of our school community. Teachers report that most pupils have made a fantastic start to working from home on a computer or mobile device. However, there are a small number of pupils who have failed to engage. Please speak to your child about the work that they are doing and encourage them to email completed work to their teachers. As far as possible pupils are being set work that they would normally be studying in school and it is important that they continue to acquire new skills and knowledge. The IT team inform me that our servers are coping with all the increased demand and pupils or parents are getting in touch if they need extra help, please continue to do so.

I would also like to point out that we are not expecting pupils to work beyond the school day on the work being set. The teaching staff are setting work to ensure that our pupils have enough work for a five hour day and we have had a week where we have asked our pupils to follow their timetable as closely as possible, as if they were in school. However, we have found with the pupils in school that this is fine to a point, but working in front of a screen for five hours is very different to working at school where there is lots of interaction with friends and teaching staff. Variety is key to keeping pupils engaged, so why not mix up the day a little by watching a film in French or Spanish, cooking a dish or baking a cake and then taking a Joe Wicks PE lesson?

Work will continue to be set next week in exactly the same way and I hope you find ways of mixing it up a little. Why don't you tweet us if you have any suggestions?

From Monday 6 April to Friday 17 April 2020 we have our planned Easter holiday and I think it is important that pupils do treat this two week period as a holiday. Therefore they will not have any school work set during this two weeks. Work will be set again from Monday 20 April 2020 onwards.

For Year 11 pupils and parents, I have been told that next week Ofqual will release guidance on how the final GCSE grades will be arrived at. As soon as this is published I will write to you confirming the methodology we will use.

For your information, the school continues to operate on a scaled-down basis to provide for vulnerable and key worker pupils, something that will continue through the planned Easter holiday.

The situation that we all find ourselves in feels very surreal, especially with this unusually hot and sunny late March weather! As I stated in my last letter, we will get through this major health crisis by remaining united in our very special school community. With the intention of lightening spirits a little I have put a link here for you to sing along to - why don't you turn it up and even clap along!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=reAlJKv7ptU>

God bless and take care.

M J DUMICAN
Headteacher

