



# St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School

*Prepare the way of the Lord*

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5 January 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I can only repeat my apology from yesterday about the ever changing messages I have to make in my communications to you. Following the announcement from the Prime Minister yesterday evening, school will now be closed to all pupils until February half-term, apart from children of Key Workers and those classed as vulnerable. School will be open to these pupils from **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021**.

For all other pupils in years 7-11 lessons will continue via Microsoft Teams from **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021**. If you know that your child cannot access the lessons on Teams due to IT issues, please contact school as soon as possible using the [office@arrowsmith.wigan.sch.uk](mailto:office@arrowsmith.wigan.sch.uk) email address. We have a limited amount of laptops provided by the government to assist pupils who have difficulty with accessibility, however these will be prioritised using some set criteria.

We have developed our capacity and knowledge of delivering lessons via Teams considerably over the last term when we have had 'bubbles' at home self-isolating and I would urge you to ensure that your child accesses all online lessons in line with their normal school timetable. The response we had during last term to these remote lessons was magnificent from the vast majority of pupils and parents and I would ask that you continue to support your child by ensuring that they attend **all** lessons each day.

Year 11 pupils and their parents will be very anxious about what methodology will be used to determine GCSE grades in the summer and as soon as I am notified of this, I will write to you with the details. For now, it is essential that all Year 11 pupils continue to attend their Teams lessons until we have clarity on this crucial issue. Planned examinations taking place in January will still go ahead. We will delay the scheduled Year 11 Parents' Evening on the 14<sup>th</sup> January until we have clarity on the situation, I will inform you of the revised date as soon as possible.

For those parents whose children usually receive Free School Meals, we will revert to issuing supermarket vouchers as we did during the last lockdown (details to follow shortly), apart from these children in school, who will receive a free lunch as usual. Provision will be limited and a minimum of a "packed lunch" will be provided until we establish what our catering company can provide. For all other children attending a packed lunch will be required for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> January with more information on the provision available for week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> January.

We have just received notification that school bus services will be suspended from 11<sup>th</sup> January. The public bus network will still operate and information can be found on the TfGM website. Pupils who attend school during the lockdown will have to make alternative arrangements to get to and from school. It will be essential that pupils follow the necessary guidance regarding face coverings on public transport to reduce the risk when attending school.



The next 5 weeks may well prove to be very tough for some families and we are here to help in whatever way we can. If you are struggling, please contact your child's Senior Learning Coordinator in the first instance and we will try to do whatever we can to help.

We will still need volunteers to carry out testing on the pupils we will have in school, so please use this [link](#) to register your interest if you feel you can support us in this.

As I stated yesterday, I am always extremely proud of our school community and I know that during these turbulent times we can rely on each other to lend support and offer help so that we can all get through this together. Thank you for your on-going patience, support and co-operation, it is always very much appreciated.

Yours faithfully,



**M J Dumican**  
**Headteacher**

