



St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School

Prepare the way of the Lord

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Dear Parent/Carer

There are several pieces of information I would like to keep you up to date with.

I understand that several parents were disappointed that work sent to pupils on Friday was via email, rather than 'live lessons' via Microsoft Teams. It is really important that I manage your expectations as we move through this term.

Firstly, although we have a very advanced IT network infrastructure in school we are not yet in a position that teaching staff could successfully deliver live lessons from their homes, although further investment means that this should be a possibility in the not-too-distant future. Currently, all staff are in school to ensure that the connections work and that the learning experience is as good as it can possibly be for our pupils in these circumstances. As a staff, we are constantly developing our remote teaching skills and learning the ways that pupils learn best remotely. Virtual discussions about how to deliver lesson content are frequently held among the teaching staff in school; we follow the latest Ofsted guidance and keep up to date with the current evidence provided by a range of educational research teams. Teachers will always use the best possible method of delivering particular schemes of work in their different curricular areas and it could well mean that the teaching staff will use a combination of live lessons, emailed work, reference to online resources etc. to progress their relevant schemes of work.

However, we recognise that regular contact with our pupils is vitally important. Therefore, please be assured that your child will be able to speak to his/her class teachers via Teams on a very regular basis and that even if your child is working independently his/her teacher will be on hand to help – either on Teams or via email.

When the government make their direction to schools to offer 'remote learning' to their pupils, this did not mean or specify 'live lessons', it meant any of the above depending upon what was possible infrastructure-wise and what was best from an educational perspective. We felt it was important to offer live lessons at the start of this term both from an educational and pastoral perspective, to offer reassurances to all pupils that we will do our absolute best for them.

We will commence our Lateral Flow Testing for staff and pupils in the school this week. I would like to sincerely thank all the parents who volunteered to help us with this mammoth task; I was honestly flabbergasted and humbled by the number of parents offering help. As we have a very small number of pupils in school, compared to the 1230 we were expecting, we have only had to call upon a very small number of parents to help us. There is a great deal of uncertainty about the testing regime when all pupils do return to school, but we will contact you again once this becomes known.

I would like to thank you for your continued support, patience and understanding, especially for those kind emails I receive acknowledging that we are doing our very best in unprecedented and difficult times, where the landscape of directives is continually changing. In the current climate it is even more important that we work together in our 'Eddies' family, to show consideration and empathy to everyone and ensure we are all looking after each other.

Yours faithfully

M J DUMICAN
Headteacher

