



# 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](mailto:office@arrowsmith.wigan.sch.uk)  
Web: <http://www.arrowsmith.wigan.sch.uk>  
Headteacher: Mr. M. J. Dumican  
B.A. (Hons), PGCE, NPQH, MSc, MEd

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Dear Parent/Carer

Firstly, I would like to **thank you** all for the tremendous support that you have given to the school in these unusual and challenging times. I am very proud of our school community and the togetherness demonstrated by our families as you have adapted to our new way of working. Quite simply, it has been fantastic.

Following the Government announcement last night, it is apparent that pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 will not be returning to school before September. Our Year 10 pupils may return for a number of weeks before the planned summer holiday, depending upon the conditions. If and when this happens, I will write to parents and pupils of Year 10 with the details of how the school will open.

However, we do still have 9 school weeks of the summer term left to operate under the same home learning environment. I realise that working under these conditions has been really challenging, all the teaching staff and I massively appreciate the superb efforts of our pupils and parents.

I cannot stress how important it is to keep our pupils working to the best of their ability right through until 17 July 2020. At some point, all of our pupils will return to school, hopefully in September and it is vitally important that our pupils keep their academic progress going so they are not disadvantaged when we do return.

As we have learned from the pupils that we still have in school; following the school timetable for 5 hours a day at home is very different to a classroom situation where they have a lot of interaction with their friends and a teacher directing their learning. We know that variety to the day is absolutely key to keeping your son or daughter engaged, so please continue to do this.

I would also like to reiterate we do not expect pupils to work beyond the school day. It has been fantastic to read and see some of the fantastic work and projects that pupils have been completing at home. Please continue to send us your stories and photographs of your work so that we can tweet these brilliant efforts. As long as every pupil is doing their best that is all we would ever ask for.

Hopefully you will be aware of the 'Kilometre Challenge' and how it galvanised our pupils a couple of weeks ago. I would like to thank the PE Department for their efforts and **congratulations** to the pupils for beating the staff!

I would now like you to please put a date in your diary for another school community event - **Wednesday 20 May 2020** at **7.00pm** when we will be holding a **Music Concert** which we would like you all to access the school website to watch. Simply go to our website [www.arrowsmith.wigan.sch.uk](http://www.arrowsmith.wigan.sch.uk) and click on 'Play' at 7.00pm and you will be able to enjoy the show! There will be other challenges coming up in the next few weeks, please keep a look out.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to our amazing staff, who I mentioned in my last letter, who have made over 3,700 visors for NHS and other staff in care settings across Wigan – a truly remarkable achievement and one which we are very proud to be associated with.

I hope that you are all in good spirits and keeping safe. Please take care of yourselves and God bless.

**M J DUMICAN**  
Headteacher