



St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School

Prepare the way of the Lord

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19 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Following my letter last week, I have been inundated with messages of support for our current and planned approach to remote learning. A heart-felt 'thank you' to the many parents who took the time to both thank the staff for all their efforts and to approve our intended approach moving forward through this term. Your patience and understanding is very much appreciated.

The vast majority of pupils are engaging magnificently; please congratulate your child and encourage them to continue their efforts.

Lessons conducted using 'Teams' will continue this week, but there may be more independent tasks introduced by the teachers. This could mean that the teacher teaches at the start of the lesson, then sets the pupils a task which will test or develop the pupils' skills or understanding of a topic. However, even when your child is working independently his/her teacher will be on hand to help – either on Teams or via email. In remote lesson feedback last week, pupils requested a screen break/leg stretch between each lesson so teachers have been asked to introduce this to each of their lessons.

At St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School, we really value the pastoral elements of the curriculum. Form Teachers and Senior Learning Coordinators are keen to continue to support their forms and year groups with virtual form times and assemblies, so please encourage your child to join their Teams form at 8.35am. I am sure that you will agree that regular pastoral contact for your child is more important than ever in the current circumstances.

As you may have seen on our Twitter feed, our testing facility was up and running last week and we were able to test all staff and pupils currently in school. We will be contacting parents who volunteered to help shortly with further details of how you can support us with this testing as we move through this term.

We held a very successful virtual Parents' Evening for Year 10 before Christmas and Year 9 (28 Jan 21) and Year 7 (11 Feb 21) Parents' Evenings are coming up in the next few weeks, both of these evenings will go ahead as planned, albeit virtually. The Year 11 Parents' Evening has been put on hold until we know the outcome of the current consultation regarding how GCSE grades will be awarded. If you would like to contribute to this consultation, please click [here](#), the closing date is Friday 29 January 2021. Each year group will receive specific instructions prior to each evening taking place.

I have never been prouder to be the Headteacher of what is a fantastic and special family at St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School. We are truly blessed to have such fantastic pupils, parents and staff. We will continue to do everything in our power to make this term as productive, engaging and inspiring as we possibly can.

If you are struggling with any aspect of your child's education during this term, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us. The relevant contact emails have been put on the splash page of our website to help you direct your message to the right staff member and we will do our very best to help.

Yours faithfully

M J DUMICAN
Headteacher

