

Saint Ambrose College

State-funded Independent Catholic Grammar School

Principal: Mr D. Rainey B.Ed (Hons)



22nd March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Since my last correspondence on Friday afternoon we've had an update with regard to how Year 11 and Upper 6th will be assessed in the summer and we've also had further guidance in relation to social distancing measures which we will be putting in to place for those attending from tomorrow.

In response to some queries about attending school if not the son of a key worker or through a desire to complete coursework, it must be clearly stated that this must not happen. Gavin Williamson has stated that if children can be kept at home, then they should be. Advice is that people should be exercising strict social distancing measures and that people are safer in isolation at home. Therefore, in line with guidance, we can only accept vulnerable students and children of key workers in school this week. Key workers information was sent on Friday and has been clarified further as those whose roles are directly related to the COVID-19 response. This will mean that any prior agreement to come in to complete coursework for Technology will no longer go ahead. Students should prioritise the work set on MILK across all subjects.

For parents and carers of those who are eligible to be in school tomorrow and at other times during the week, please remind boys to bring their PE kit. Activities organised by the PE Department will adhere to social distancing guidance as will all other arrangements throughout the day. This means that those attending must gather on the Spanish Steps/tables in the central atrium separated from others at the beginning of the school day and will spend much of the day in small groups in the computer rooms working through the work set on MILK. Social distancing will also be implemented at lunchtime. The canteen will be open but only a limited service will be available. Where possible, additional activities will be arranged outdoors. As we are encouraged to change clothes at least daily, boys are not expected to attend in uniform tomorrow and should be in different clothes each day. The day will begin at 8:55am and finish at 3:35pm as usual. Please see bus arrangements sent out on Friday.

A further Jotform will be sent out towards the end of the week in order to ascertain those boys of key workers who will require support in school over the Easter holidays.

Finally, the announcement on Friday afternoon that teacher judgments will be used to allocate grades for A level and GCSE exams has resulted in some teachers receiving emails regarding projected grades. Given the unusual circumstances, I understand that there might be anxiety surrounding this change to the usual procedure but I would ask parents and carers to refrain from contacting teachers directly regarding this issue. In anticipation of such a scenario, the school has already collected up to date data and this will be moderated internally. For clarification, although mock exam performance forms part of the judgement, grades will not be arrived at on this assessment alone. All other assessments and factors will be considered. The college's SLT, in discussion with Middle Leaders will analyse comparative data from previous year groups to ensure that projections are realistic based on a range of appropriate evidence and ultimately fair. You can read more from the AQA website here:

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<https://www.aqa.org.uk/coronavirus-updates>

Part of the work being undertaken this week will include reviewing work being set on MILK/Microsoft Teams and looking at providing additional materials where appropriate. Please help to support us by providing a structured day for your son(s) as much as possible.

Thank you for your continued support and stay safe.

Yours faithfully

Mr D Rainey

Principal

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