

Head Teacher
N.Fisher MA, BA(Hons), PGCE, NPQH

Deputy Head Teacher
D.Evans BEng(Hons), PGCE

School Business Manager
S.Goddard DSRM

19 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Update on School Closure

The decision to close schools across the United Kingdom has been made and St Columba's will be closed from lunchtime tomorrow. The statement made by the Secretary of State for Education indicates that the GCSE examinations will not take place in May / June and we are digesting what the implications of this are for our Yr 11 students.

Due to the impending closure, Yr 8 students will continue to work from home. Also for tomorrow, Yr 11 Students will be working from home. Students were informed before they left school this afternoon. Work for all students can be found on the school website.

We have planned to support your child in continuing their learning for the duration of the closure, and propose to continue to provide, where possible, work that can be accessed electronically.

Our plan is for your son to have electronic lessons every day to match the subjects he would have had that day. Details of the work will be emailed to your son via his school email address by 9:00am each day. The work should take the hour of the lessons and it is essential your son takes notes on whatever he is accessing into either his subject exercise book or the Independent Learning Book. For a subject like maths the questions should be done into the book not just answers added on screen. If a teacher provides an electronic worksheet I recommend you don't print it but instead encourage your son to do the work into the book from the screen. Please encourage them to show care in the presentation of the work.

The main packages used will be Doodle and GCSEPod, although some subjects will use other ones. Work should closely mirror the schemes of work. Whilst this time may be unsettling for your son, it does afford an opportunity to develop some first-class independent learning skills. If your son completes all the work please encourage him to read. I appreciate you may have concerns about work – please email these to KS3COVID@st-columbas.bexley.sch.uk for Key Stage 3 or KS4COVID@st-columbas.bexley.sch.uk for Key Stage 4 stating your son's name and form in the subject line rather than attempting to contact the class teacher directly.

This is a difficult time for us all - I pray you and your family stay safe and well; please rest assured your son's work is being assessed electronically and monitored by his class teacher. I have a lot of resources to share in terms of supporting you over the coming period, please use the school website as a portal to staying in touch.

God bless and many thanks for your support in the past weeks and the times ahead.

Yours faithfully


Mr Evans
Deputy Head Teacher

*Our school is an inclusive place of learning that celebrates and welcomes diversity.
Every member of our community is a unique and special creation of God and is known,
cared for and valued for the contribution they make.
Every student is challenged and supported to achieve his best.*

