



In all things faithful

St Damian's RC Science College

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23rd March 2020

Dear parents/carers

Pupils in school

As you are aware, children of key workers and vulnerable children may come to school. However, as I said on Friday, if parents send their children to school when they really don't need to, then they are really putting their children and other people's children and our staff at risk which is a situation that we really want to avoid. 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.** Please listen to this advice.

Social distancing

Whilst pupils are in school, there will be strict social distancing in place. Pupils will be separated from others and will spend much of the day in small groups working in computer rooms. 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.

School uniform

As we are encouraged to change clothes at least daily, pupils are not expected to attend in uniform and should be in different clothes each day.

Staffing levels

Staffing levels are depleted as many of my staff self-isolate. This has had a substantial impact on what school can offer. Any pupil in school will simply be completing work that is on Microsoft Teams. This can be completed at home.

Buses

Last week I received an e-mail from Transport for Greater Manchester [TfGM] that said, *"TfGM has decided that it will continue to run tendered school services from Monday 23rd March until such time as we have a better understanding of the impact of changing demand on both schools' services and the wider commercial network"*.

Year 11 and exams

Although the finer details are yet to be actioned, there is now an update with regards to how Year 11 will be assessed in the Summer. I understand that there will be great anxiety with regards to GCSE grades, but I respectfully ask that you do not contact the school with regards to this. Mrs Henshaw will give further details when possible.

Social Media

Over the past few days, I have been inundated with positive messages and support. Can I say a massive and genuine thanks for these comments: they keep the morale of the great staff at St Damian's high. However, I also ask that if you do use Social Media, please be positive. This is not the time to comment in a negative manner, especially when you may not know the full facts.

Finally, I appreciate that this is a difficult and uncertain time for both your children and you. This is exacerbated as things are rapidly changing.

Thank you for your continued support and stay safe.

Mr Logue

Headteacher

Headteacher

Mr S Logue BA (Hons), M.Ed., NPQH

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